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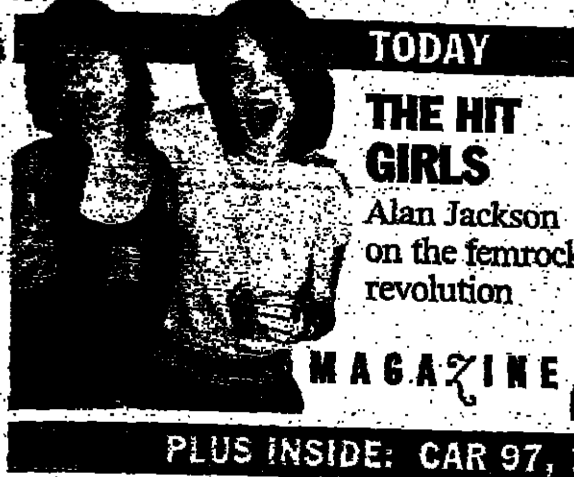

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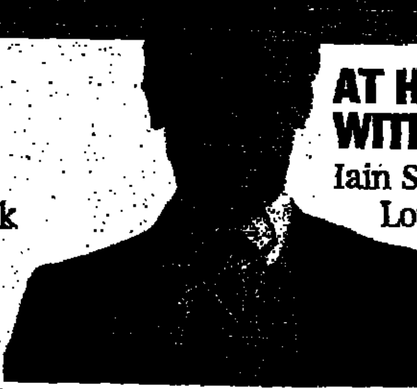

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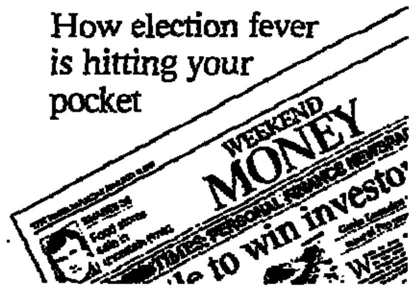

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Offer of compensation or job back as warpath across Europe ends at Frankfurt HQ

PHOTOGRAPHS: DENZIL McNEELANCE; MICHAEL DALDER/REUTERS

8.30, KENSINGTON: Ms Horlick heads for the office

9.45, FINSBURY CIRCUS: A brief unscheduled meeting with Martyn Drain, head of personnel at Morgan Grenfell

2.30, FRANKFURT: Ms Horlick calls the bank HQ

City bank superwoman wins the day

By Carol Midgley

NICOLA HORLICK, the City "superwoman" suspended by her employer Morgan Grenfell, yesterday staged a dramatic showdown at the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt in an effort to win back her job.

Ms Horlick, 35, who angrily denied allegations that she had tried to poach staff for a rival company, spent more than an hour in discussions with Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent.

She emerged victorious, claiming that a lawyer and the head of the Human Resouces Department had listened to her story and discussed two possible options: reinstatement or compensation. Ms Horlick said that the company had agreed to a full investigation.

She said: "I was very happy with what they have said. I was extremely pleased that they were prepared to listen to my side." Earlier she had accused Morgan Grenfell of acting like judge and jury.

She added: "These were very, very reasonable people. I feel they wanted to see a fair outcome. I am very grateful to them for doing that and I am a lot happier than I was this morning. It has restored my faith in human nature."

It was the culmination of an extraordinary day in which she had led a procession of journalists around her former office in London publicly demanding to be reinstated.

A posse of Fleet Street reporters, photographers and TV camera crew then escorted her to Frankfurt but the confrontation erupted into farce when she failed to emerge from the offices to brief journalists. A security guard told the waiting pack that she had slipped out of a back door and gone to the airport. She was later tracked down to a coffee bar at Terminal 2 where she said that she and the bank had agreed a form of words.

However she said she was "very unhappy" with a statement issued by Morgan Grenfell in London which said that the Deutsche Bank had seen her only out of courtesy.

Ms Horlick, a mother of five, had claimed that she had been brutally treated by a "machiavellian" regime. She also believed that senior figures had felt she devoted too much time to her children, one of whom has leukaemia.

This extraordinary day began when Ms Horlick decided during a sleepless night that she would have to take drastic action to save her reputation. On Tuesday she had been suspended from her new job as managing director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management.

She got up early to feed her seven-month old baby Antonia and prepare for a showdown with chief executive Robert Smith, at the Finsbury Circus offices in London where she has worked since 1991.

At 8.15, she appeared at the door of her £1.3 million mansion in Kensington holding Antonia and declared that she had decided she was going to fight a David and Goliath battle.

"I am going to feed my baby, get changed and then I am going to Morgan Grenfell," she told reporters. "And you are coming with me." She said that her husband Tim, who works for Salomon Brothers, had left for work an hour before and knew nothing of her plan: "He would have talked me out of it". Fifteen minutes later, dressed in a black business suit, she left home and climbed into her red Alfa Romeo saying that the company had a fight on its hands. At Finsbury Circus where she arrived at 9.30, security men were clearly not expecting her.

She swept through the front door and made for the staircase — "not the lift, they will be able to block them off" — to go to her third floor office. There were gasps of astonishment as she led reporters and photographers in a style which one member of staff likened to the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

The staff at Morgan Grenfell could scarcely believe what they were seeing. Like a miniature tornado she stormed through their offices trailing a procession of journalists.

Rows of suited City workers looked up aghast from their screens, as, head held high, their former boss brushed aside frantic security guards on her way to the chief executive's office.

"Lay a finger on me and I will call the police," she told security. "Lay a finger on them," she added, pointing to the press, "and I will still call the police. Some of her former colleagues shouted encouragement. "Well done Nicola,

Continued on page 2, col 5

Millennium plan rescued by deal

The Millennium Exhibition has been saved after an agreement was struck between the Government, the Labour Party and the Millennium Commission.

The deal came after another day of talks between Michael Heseltine and Tony Blair, who devised a formula which the commission is expected to approve today .... Page 2

Gingrich faces $100,000 penalty

Newt Gingrich is to be ordered to pay a penalty of at least $100,000 (£60,000) after the special counsel investigating ethics charges against the House Speaker released a highly condemnatory report. However, the fine is not likely to prompt Mr Gingrich to resign .... Page 17

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First British war crimes trial ends before it begins

By Bill Frost

BRITAIN'S first Nazi war crimes trial collapsed before it began yesterday, costing the taxpayer £4 million and casting doubt over any future prosecutions.

An Old Bailey jury decided that Szymon Serafinowicz, an 86-year-old retired carpenter from Banstead in Surrey, was unfit to stand trial after hearing evidence that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He had faced three specimen charges of murdering unknown Jews in his native Belarus between November 1941 and March 1942 while the country was under the Nazis.

The verdict adds to the cost of unmasking alleged war criminals living in this country, currently standing at £15 million and with five suspects still under investigation.

As he left the Old Bailey, Mr Serafinowicz's son Kazimierz said: "Justice has been done. They brought out all the big guns against my father — the Solicitor-General was called in to prosecute. But in the end the jury saw how crazy it was. He did not kill Jews and anyone who says he did is either potty or a liar."

Helping his frail father to a waiting car, he added: "All we want to do now is go home to Banstead and be left alone. This has made him even more ill than he was before — a cruel farce."

Nicholas Bowers, the family solicitor, said that the jury had made the right decision. But Mr Serafinowicz regretted that he would not now have the opportunity to clear his name.

The prosecution had said that the murder counts were specimen charges, designed to reflect a much greater scale of involvement in the murder of as many as 3,000 Jews in the Mir area of Belarus.

During an eight-day hearing the court heard from doctors who agreed that Serafinowicz was suffering from dementia, probably the progressive and incurable Alzheimer's disease, to such an extent that he was unfit to be tried.

After the jury unanimously found he was "under a disability" and therefore unfit to stand trial, Sir Derek Spencer, QC, the Solicitor-General, said the prosecution had given "careful consideration to the options available". Counsel had decided to invite the Attorney-General to offer a nolle prosequi — an unwillingness to prosecute in the case — and he had accepted.

Mr Serafinowicz sat with his head bowed and showed no emotion as the jury decided

Continued on page 3, col 1

Fosset: likely to be forced down in India

Balloon may be grounded by Gaddafi

From Quentin Letts in New York

THE AMERICAN hot air balloonist Steve Fossett may be forced to abandon his attempt to fly around the world after Libya refused him permission to overfly.

Mr Fossett's new route over Niger, Chad and Egypt will use so much propane fuel that he will almost certainly have to put down his craft, Solo Spirit, in India.

The cable to Mr Fossett's Chicago mission control from Colonel Gaddafi's authorities in Tripoli read: "We regret/advise cannot issue permission for your balloon."

Richard Branson, whose own attempt to fly round the world in a balloon ended in failure earlier this month, said he understood decision was due to the Muslim festival of Ramadan.

Farewell, old fruit, we're sad to see you go

By John Hopkins

HAIL! old friend. You have been bruised, squashed, twisted, peeled, pushed and pummeled. You have brought succour to millions of rugby players who have gnawed at you ravenously, sucked you, spat you out, thrown you to the ground and even trodden you into the sodden turf.

We are sad to say, old fruit, your days are numbered. We hope you will take this on the peel. You are about to be kicked into touch.

In case we do not get another chance, we'll say: "Farewell, orange, and thanks." You may have been a humble Jaffa to the local greengrocer, but to us you were the cat's pyjamas.

Watch this afternoon's international matches and after 40 minutes the referee will blow his whistle for half-time. For five minutes the players will gather round their captains and coaches until the referee blows again and another 40 minutes of play commences. Such is the very order of things, like the setting of the sun and the rising of the moon.

Now, though, comes news from Dublin, where the lawmakers have been meeting, that when a new season starts in the southern hemisphere in March, the five-minute interval is to be doubled and players may leave the pitch. No more will they be seen to be putting a chunk of orange into their mouths and sucking it dry before picking at their teeth to remove its last shards and taking a glug, glug, glug of restorative drink. From March, in games at the highest level at least, all this and more will take place behind closed doors.

How sad. Another essential part of the fabric of the game is changed. Perhaps, then, this is the moment to raise a point. When did the orange assume this enormous role? Were there oranges at Twickenham when it was known as Billy Williams's cabbage patch? And what about at Cardiff Arms Park? Perhaps one of those tribal anthems sung so lustily in Cardiff was as much a paean to oranges as it was to the men in red shirts, who always seemed to win, in those days at any rate.

And why, whether it was in Invercargill or Inverness, was it always oranges that were brought out at half-time, never satsumas, mandarins or tangerines, kiwi fruit or avocado pears?

So farewell old round one, you did us proud; and farewell, too, to half-time. What will they think of next? Changing the shape of the ball perhaps.

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BALLOT 97

Late deal saves Millennium Exhibition

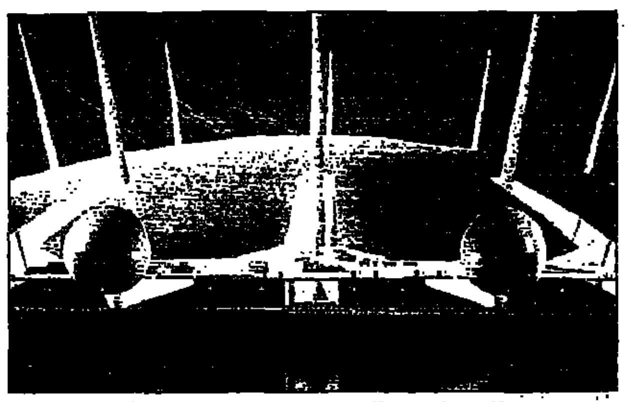
By Damian Whitworth and Andrew Pierce

THE Millennium Exhibition was saved after weeks of uncertainty when an agreement was struck late last night between the Government, the Labour Party and the Millennium Commission.

The deal came after another 24 hours of negotiations between Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Blair. They came up with an agreed formula which the Millennium Commission is expected to approve today.

A spokesman for Mr Heseltine, who has invested much of his personal authority in the project, confirmed that the massive project was back on schedule. "We are delighted that the exhibition is going ahead," he said. "I think you will find all three sides have got what they wanted." However, as uncertainty continued over whether the troubled project could be saved, Labour and the Tories blamed each other for the hold-up. A spokesman for Mr Blair said: "Discussions are continuing. Mr Blair and Mr Heseltine are confident that an announcement will made tomorrow."

However, even as negotiations continued over Labour's insistence on being able to review the project if it wins the election, a further setback emerged. The designers of the proposed dome, the centrepiece of the £800 million exhibition, admitted that they had no idea how much it would cost.


One of the designs for the Millennium Dome, which will be twice the size of Wembley Stadium

Imagination, a design company, disclosed that it had come up with 34 designs for the dome, which will be twice the size of Wembley Stadium, to match an equal number of different budgets. The latest price tag was £580 million.

Pam Williams of Imagination said: "We don't know what the final figure will be. It is not a question for us. It is an issue for the Millennium people who are still talking about it."

As the Millennium Commission studied the form of words agreed by Labour and the Government on the future of the project, a spokeswoman said that the Commission had to be satisfied that the project could be delivered under the terms sought by both sides.

Officials from the Government, the Labour Party and the Commission spent the day continuing to thrash out the arguments. The Commission has said that the project is in danger of collapse unless agreement is reached immediately because time is running out for work contracts to be signed.

Tony Blair has been told that the scheme would be "dead in the water" without his support. Financial backers would be scared off for fear that a Labour government would scrap the celebrations if they were not deemed financially viable.

Mr Heseltine, engaged in a delicate balancing act with Labour over the project, was careful not to criticise the Opposition. John Major, anxious to ensure the Government is not blamed if the deal collapses, was not so restrained. He said on BBC local radio yesterday: "The Labour Party has had its representative on the discussions and debate over this project right from the outset. It's very surprising at the last moment that they have failed to understand what is going on and created this difficulty."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said that agreement could have been reached on Wednesday if the Government had accepted Labour's demands. He denied that Labour had ever threatened to cancel the project, but said it wanted to make sure there was no massive funding gap.

Horlick hires City spin doctors to handle her offensive

Bank embarks on campaign to calm pensions clients

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

EXECUTIVES at Morgan Grenfell embarked on a charm offensive yesterday to reassure anxious City and pension fund clients in the wake of the Horlick suspension and subsequent resignation.

Many Morgan Grenfell investors are pension fund trustees, who have a legal and moral duty to safeguard billions of pounds on behalf of millions of pensioners.

Mrs Horlick and her 30-strong team looked after £18 billion of UK pensions fund business out of total assets managed by the firm of £70 billion.

During the past five years Mrs Horlick and her former boss Keith Percy, who left the City investment house in the wake of the Peter Young affair, have produced above average returns for their clients. According to the latest index published by WM, the performance monitoring agency, Morgan Grenfell's funds outperformed all its pension fund rivals last year by 2.5 per cent.

One of the larger clients is the Railways Pension Trustee Company, which has £1.25 billion invested with the firm, and looks after the interests of 330,000 members. David Adams, the chief executive of the railways pension company said yesterday: "In view of the recent events we shall of course be keeping an extra close eye on what is happening.

"We shall be watching to see whether the previous good performance can be maintained and whether staff remain at their posts. We also want to know if there will be any changes to the way in which the portfolio is managed."

Other Morgan Grenfell clients expressed concern at the seemingly endless catalogue of high profile disasters that have befallen the City investment house in the past six months.One cited the Peter Young case in which the former manager of two European funds allegedly breached City rules on the way in which the funds were managed leaving Morgan Grenfell's parent company, Deutsche Bank, nursing a potential compensation and costs bill of some £400 million. Mr Young, who was dismissed last September for "gross misconduct" is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation.

In another, separate, incident fund manager was suspended and subsequently dismissed for breaking Morgan Grenfell rules on dealing in shares on his own account. Other high profile pension funds clients of Morgan Grenfell include a number of local authorities such as Westminster City Council and Merton in south London.

Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, said yesterday that the firm stood by its actions in suspending Mrs Horlick from her post on Tuesday. He said: "We are completely satisfied that we have acted properly throughout."

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Security staff eject photographers who followed Mrs Horlick to Morgan Grenfell's City offices

Meanwhile, Mrs Horlick has hired Anthony Cardew, fast-becoming the Max Clifford of financial public relations. He wasted little time in turning a rapidly deteriorating situation to his client's advantage.

A strategically placed interview in the *Financial Times* was all it took to put Mrs Horlick back in control. Rival newspapers had little option but to follow her words, reinforcing that first tactical strike with a succession of damaging volleys. Morgan Grenfell was in turn obliged to "leak" details of an internal memo to staff, in its desire to recapture the upper ground. Other clients with whom he works include Eurotunnel and British Aerospace.

☐ S J Berwin, solicitors, have never acted for Nicola Horlick, the former Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Executive, as reported yesterday. Her solicitors are Herbert Smith.

Superwoman wins the day

Continued from page 1

good for you", they said as she made for the boss' door.

But Mr Smith was not there. After a quick conversation with the personnel manager, Martyn Drain, she led her entourage around the corner to the bank's HQ to confront the chairman, Michael Dobson.

From the foyer in Bishopsgate, she ran upstairs to say she would wait precisely 20 minutes. "After that I am going straight to Frankfurt."

Within 15 minutes, it was clear that there was to be no meeting and so, at 10.30, she headed back to Kensington to pick up her passport.

At 12.30 Ms Horlick was checking in at Heathrow and the 1 o'clock Lufthansa flight was surrounded by representatives from most national newspapers and ITN. In business class, she sipped sparkling water and told the 20 journalists that the charges against her were "completely trumped up".

"I am probably completely mad for doing this, but I have come this far and I have got to see it through," she said.

At Frankfurt German journalists were told: "I am here because I have been constructively dismissed and I want to be reinstated."

Then taxi to the Deutsche Bank HQ and Ms Horlick walked into the glass-fronted building surrounded now by at least 30 journalists. Her arrival was not unexpected. Heinz Schaefer, head of security, shook her hand, saying: "Ms Horlick, would you like to come up to a meeting room?"

He agreed that a German-speaking representative from Reuters could go with her to the fifth floor room.

Earlier, Ms Horlick said that Morgan Grenfell had paid no heed to the five and a half years "devoted service" she had given. She said management were well aware that for the past eight years her eldest child, Georgina, had been fighting acute leukaemia. Recently Georgina had suffered a relapse and was undergoing chemotherapy at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"All my spare time goes on caring for children," she said. "I am simply not in a position where I could be thinking about starting all over again in a new job and to be poaching staff for it. I need to feel secure. "I have a daughter who is sick, I have a huge mortgage and I owe a lot of money in tax due to a bonus I received last year. I need to be around the team that I love and trust. All I want is my job back."

Bank's German headquarters agreed to an inquiry

She said that the family had suffered "real trauma" over Georgina's illness. During her recent relapse the child also fell victim to the so-called flesh eating virus necrotising fasciitis. Although she was now recovering she needed constant care and Ms Horlick's team at Morgan Grenfell had frequently stepped in to cover for her when she had to dash to the hospital at short notice.

Ms Horlick, an Oxford graduate, laughed off suggestions that she was a superwoman managing to hold down a £1 million job and bring up five children, she said that her last baby, Antonia seven months, had been conceived in a desperate effort to find a matching bone marrow donor for Georgina.

"It has been very, very hard for me but I have given everything to this job. I spent all night worrying about whether I should speak out or not but all I have is my professional reputation so I have to defend it. The company wanted me gagged but now I have gone for constructive dismissal I am free to say what I want."

Ms Horlick added that, should she win her fight she would not be able to work with her two immediate seniors Robert Smith and Michael Dobson: "It would be a case of me or them."

Ms Horlick said she was flabbergasted when on Tuesday she was told about the allegations against her. She said: "I was pulled out of a business meeting and told I was suspended. I was taken to my desk, told to clear it and then escorted out. At that point they didn't even tell me what the allegations were. I discovered that later from a letter.."

Ms Horlick said she later found out that that same information had been on the work screens for most of the day. She said the company was obsessed with public relations and had called Brunswick PR even before consulting lawyers.

She added: "I come from the old fashioned school which believes that people in the same company work together. It used to be a completely unpolitical environment where people thought they were there for life, but now it's all back-stabbing.

"I think one of the things they couldn't take about me is that I am very straight and I won't stab people in the back. What I say is what I mean and my team know they can trust me.

"If this company had sat down and thought about me as a human being with the life I have and not the person in the bloody promotion picture they put out of me, they would realise my family have had a hard time."

Orthodox Jews fear split over Reformist memorial

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Chief Rabbi is facing increasing divisions within the Jewish community over his decision to attend a memorial meeting for the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Conservatives in the Orthodox community are calling for Dr Jonathan Sacks to pull out of the meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jews because Rabbi Gryn, although a nationally respected and well-loved figure, as well as a survivor of the Holocaust, was a member of the progressive Reform movement.

While Dr Sacks has no jurisdiction over progressive Jewry, some Orthodox Jews fear his presence at the meeting will give authority to the Reform movement. Dr Sacks is attending in his capacity as a president of the Council of Christians and Jews, an organisation to which Rabbi Gryn was deeply committed.

Other speakers at the meeting next month will include the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford and chairman of the council, and Rabbi Tony Bayfield, chief executive of the Reform Movement and Reform Synagogues of Great Britain.

The Chief Rabbi has been criticised by Dayan Yisroel Lichtenstein, head of the Federation of Synagogues Beth Din, a conservative body, who said there was "widespread dismay" at his decision to honour the Reform Jewish leader. "There is a lot of dismay in the Orthodox community that by attending, the Chief Rabbi is giving a certain amount of respect to Hugo Gryn's position as a rabbi."

The protest has angered liberal Jews. Ned Temko, editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, said: "Surely Rabbi Sacks, as one Jew to another, a friend remembering a friend, can and should openly pay tribute to Rabbi Gryn. He was a remarkable figure of inspiration, a man who somehow survived Auschwitz both in body and spirit."

Dr Sacks said yesterday: "There were profound religious differences between us but it has been my principle ... that we work together regardless of religious differences on all matters affecting our common humanity and certainly in commemorating the Holocaust. It was on that basis that we worked together in life and it is on that basis that I pay tribute to him after his death. As Jew, as a human being, I can do no less."

Leading article, page 23

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'Resourceful' accused joined forces with Germans, escaped death at Dachau and later fought for Allies

Nazis' police chief 'took part in mass murders'

REPORTS BY BILL FROST

A PASSIONATE hatred of Soviet Russia drove Szymon Serafinowicz into the arms of the Germans when they invaded his native Belarus in 1941. He was one of the first to join a police unit set up by his country's new masters. He was to change sides before the war ended, enlisting with the Allies after falling into their hands while fighting in France.

In 1944 Mr Serafinowicz, "a tough and resourceful man" escaped death in Dachau. He had been arrested when his loyalty to the Nazis was questioned. Only the intervention of a German officer who remembered his past service saved him.

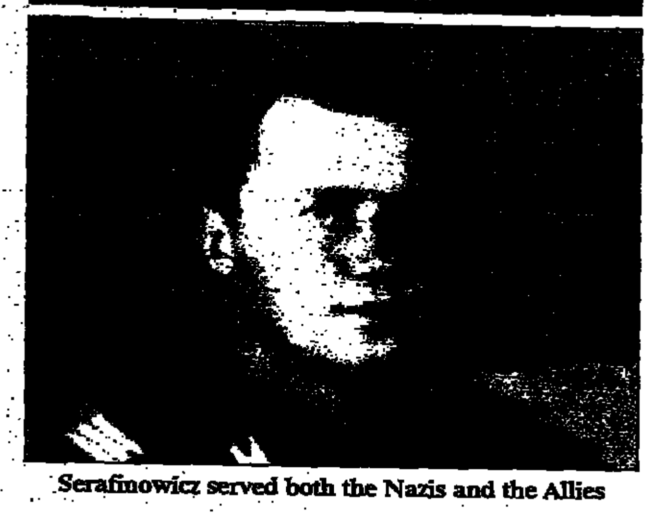
He came to this country at the end of the war. His credentials for citizenship appeared in order: he had served with the Allies in Italy and Egypt, but had not seen active service.

According to the Crown, Mr Serafinowicz, now 86, had served his Nazi masters with diligence and loyalty and was soon promoted to command a unit not far from Mir, the largest town in the area where he lived. In the early winter of 1941 he was promoted to district commander, gaining responsibility for the entire region.

According to John Nutting, QC, prosecuting counsel at committal proceedings in Dorking, Surrey, Mr Serafinowicz's battalion was responsible for carrying out "Jewish Actions" — the liquidation of everyone in the ghettos around Mir.

When the Germans marched into the Mir region more than 3,000 Jews lived there. Just over a year later none was left alive.

THE ACCUSED



Serafinowicz served both the Nazis and the Allies

"The Crown case is that, on the occasions when three of these Jewish actions took place, Mr Serafinowicz was present as a senior policeman and participated in the killings," Mr Nutting said. "This is not a case in which identity is in issue. Mr Serafinowicz acknowledged to the Metropolitan Police in interviews in 1993 that he is the man about whom the witnesses speak. But he denied to police that he had played any part in the killing of Jews."

A Jewish survivor remembered seeing Mr Serafinowicz and some other policemen on horseback chasing Jews one Sunday afternoon in the winter of 1941. "About 20 to 25 Jews were running as fast as they could and one or two minutes later I saw Serafinowicz on a horse . . . and with him were two or three policemen. I could not hear what they were saying but they were shooting into the air and chasing the Jews. Some of the Jews fell down and the police rode over them with horses and trampled them."

According to the Crown, the measure of Mr Serafinowicz's authority in the military hierarchy was revealed in the town of Turets, where massacres took place in the autumn and early winter of 1941. Ten Jewish youths were summoned to the police station to dig graves on the evening of October 19. They were ordered to make one large enough for four people.

As they were preparing the site Mr Serafinowicz stood near by. They moved to a window of the police station. Mr Nutting said: "Serafinowicz and a German began firing through the window. Screams from the victims could be heard."

On November 3, 1941, the Jews of Turets were instructed to parade the next day in the main square. A roll call at which Mr Serafinowicz was present was conducted by local policemen. About 100 Jews were chosen for forced labour while a further 600 people were taken to the cemetery and shot with machine guns. "As the senior Belarus policeman present, Mr Serafinowicz must be regarded as the principal participant in the massacre of the Turets Jews which took place that day," Mr Nutting said.

On November 9, 1941, another massacre was to take place in Mir itself. German troops arrived in force accompanied by units of the local police. The "full horror" of what transpired was recalled by Lev Abramovsky, who was 16 at the time. "As the Germans arrived in Mir early that morning I was woken by my mother and told to run away. We and other Jews ran in the direction of the Jewish cemetery. My brother and I hid in a loft from where we saw our mother, father, brother, sister and brother-in-law shot by the police, who then smashed my two young nephews' heads against the gravestones."

Mr Abramovsky and his brother were discovered in their hiding place and herded into a column of Jews being marched to a sandpit. At the pit, police and German troops used heavy machineguns to murder men, women and children in batches of 20 to 50.

Mr Abramovsky watched his surviving brother being lined up at the edge of the pit and then shot. When his own turn came, he fell forward into the pit a split second before the bullets hit his companions and scrambled out after nightfall.

Letters, page 23

Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, outside the Old Bailey yesterday, where his trial for war crimes collapsed

Why ministers were reluctant to take action

IN the summer of 1986 a list of 17 names was handed to Margaret Thatcher by a Nazi war crimes investigator working for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. The men named were British citizens leading unremarkable lives.

Mrs Thatcher, who as prime minister had recently returned from a trip to Israel, was furious and demanded action. However, successive Home Secretaries were to remain lukewarm until a detailed report had been prepared. The evidence was so appalling that not even the most cynical politician could fail to be moved.

Nevertheless, legislation paving the way for what was to have been Britain's first war crimes trial aroused much political opposition when it was introduced six years ago. Sir Edward Heath spoke of show trials: "Lots of people will rejoice in it and that will be very damaging to this country."

A number of senior Tories joined in, fearing for justice when both accused and accusers were well into the autumn of their years. Ivor Stanbrook, at the time Tory MP for Orpington, said it would be impossible "to do justice to those few people on the basis of allegations made against them in respect of things done many thousands of miles away 50 years ago."

However, the Government pressed ahead, stung by reports that Britain had unwittingly provided a safe haven for as many as 100 war criminals. When the War Crimes Bill was passed, David Waddington, the Home Secretary at the time, said: "Certain people, who may have been guilty of the most bestial crimes, still live in Britain. I don't think we can forget about it."

A war crimes inquiry conducted by Sir Thomas Hetherington, a former Director of Public Prosecutions, and William Chalmers, a former Crown Agent for Scotland, had by mid-1990 identified three individuals. Among them was Serafinowicz. A Scotland Yard unit was set up to gather evidence against them and investigate 75 other suspects.

Keenly aware that time was of the essence, the Government made provision that committal proceedings could be waived. However, as critics pointed out at the time, no sensible lawyer would allow his client to be rushed. Thus committal proceedings in the case of Serafinowicz, which began this time last year, were to run over three months.

THE POLITICIANS

The case drifted. A trial which should have begun once the lower court decided there was a case to answer was put off for months.

At the same time there were repeated rumours that the Scotland Yard unit was to be wound up: the investigations were too costly while both suspects and witnesses were getting older or dying.

As one bitter insider said: "I doubt there will ever be a full trial now of anyone in this country suspected of Nazi war crimes. Perhaps the critics were right: it was all too long ago and too far away."

Brave Jew lived with enemy to warn victims

MORE than 50 years had elapsed since the last meeting between Mr Serafinowicz and a Jew who had lived under his roof masquerading as a Christian to avoid execution.

Oswold Rufeisen, who later converted to Catholicism and took holy orders at a monastery in Haifa, Israel, also joined his landlord's police unit and became a staff officer while secretly working to undermine their murderous work.

Facing Mr Serafinowicz across the court room, he told an extraordinary tale of courage and determination. Mr Rufeisen, now 74, told too how he listened as his landlord ordered the murder and torture of civilians.

Mr Rufeisen fled to Belarussia from Poland to escape persecution by the Nazis and arrived in the town of Turets in early November 1941 with a letter of reference from a veterinary surgeon to a relative in the town.

His talent for languages was recognised by the Germans soon after his arrival. While appearing to be loyal and enthusiastic, he was in fact sending warning messages to ghettos and villages in the region earmarked for "Jewish Action".

Mr Rufeisen remembered Mr Serafinowicz as "a tall handsome man with the innate intelligence of the detective. He had an education . . . he was completely loyal to the Germans.

"He gave orders directly to the policemen in the field and did not delegate authority to others under his command. He acted as intelligence officer both for his own benefit and on behalf of the Germans and would gather information from local policemen, especially through the commanders of other police stations in the region. He also had his own informants in the surrounding villages."

THE ACCUSER

Oswold Rufeisen, 74, saw torture and murder

Asked by investigators if Mr Serafinowicz had killed people as well as ordering his men to do so, the monk said: "In most cases he participated personally. No doubt."

However, his landlord had apparently turned a deaf ear when suspicions were voiced that Mr Rufeisen might be Jewish. "Mr Serafinowicz explained and justified my position to his wife Jadwiga and to others. But I do not consider that he protected me," he said in evidence.

Asked to describe the position of Jews in the community before the German invasion, Mr Rufeisen remembered that there was "a kind of interdependence". He said the local population had not been antisemitic.

Mr Rufeisen was compelled to witness executions at close quarters. Mr Serafinowicz had not been present when Wehrmacht troops had sought revenge in a village after the killing of a comrade, butMr Rufeisen had gone as a translator.

"I called the elders of the village. I said 'Sorry but there's such anger that somebody must die.'"

He said he had advised the elders to find two people, working in the fields, that the village would like to get rid of. Minutes later two men were brought forward.

One was a forester, who had denounced a Pole to the Germans. The second was a 17-year-old mentally-handicapped boy.

"They were ordered to lie on their faces, then the commander said this this was not enough to calm the fury of the soldiers. He called a man of about 22 or 23 from the group of men. He was ordered also to lie down, but suddenly he rose and began to run.

"He was hit after 40 to 50 metres and some of the soldiers ran after him and killed him with their bayonets where he was lying. Then the commander gave the order to kill the two."

Reflecting on his time in Mir, he said: "Neither I, nor Serafinowicz were, I believe professional murderers. On that day it was necessary for some people to die, in order to save many more. I acted according to my conscience."

Asked if Mr Serafinowicz could, had he wanted, have stopped the killings between November 1941 and August 1942, Mr Rufeisen said: "No, he could not."

Interviewed before his committal, Serafimowicz was bitter at what he called his betrayal at the hands of a man he had fed and sheltered. "He was a Jew and I didn't know. I could have been shot!"

Trial folds before it starts

Continued from page 1

he should not face trial. The defence had always maintained that Serafinowicz was innocent of the charges, which were brought under the 1991 War Crimes Act.

William Clegg, QC, his counsel, said there was evidence that Serafinowicz had saved many from execution who might otherwise have faced a firing squad for collaborating with partisans.

He told jurors, who considered their verdict for 3½ hours, that they must decide whether Serafinowicz was "the best actor this country has produced in recent times" or "a sick and dying old man".

The Crown insisted that Serafinowicz would be able to cope with a trial.

The verdict is a embarrassment for Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who has to authorise war crimes prosecutions. It is also a major setback for the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mike Whine, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "The British Jewish community has every confidence in the fairness of our criminal justice system and we hope that it may still prove possible to bring to trial others suspected of involvement."

The decision to pursue alleged war criminals in this country came when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister. In face of opposition from many senior politicians, she took a personal interest in the legislation.

Lord Tebbit, the former Coneservative minister, said last night: "Today's events have only confirmed me in my belief that this whole affair has been a waste of the time of Parliament, the police and the judiciary and a colossal waste of public money which would have been better spent on caring for the people who suffered as a result of the Second World War."

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat legal affairs spokesman, who lost relatives to the Nazis in Poland, said: "Those of use who fought for the War Crimes Act always recognised that it was fairly unlikely that there would be many prosecutions, let alone convictions. But we believed, and continue to believe, that it's morally and legally right for there to be a War Crimes Act for the trial of suitable persons," he said.

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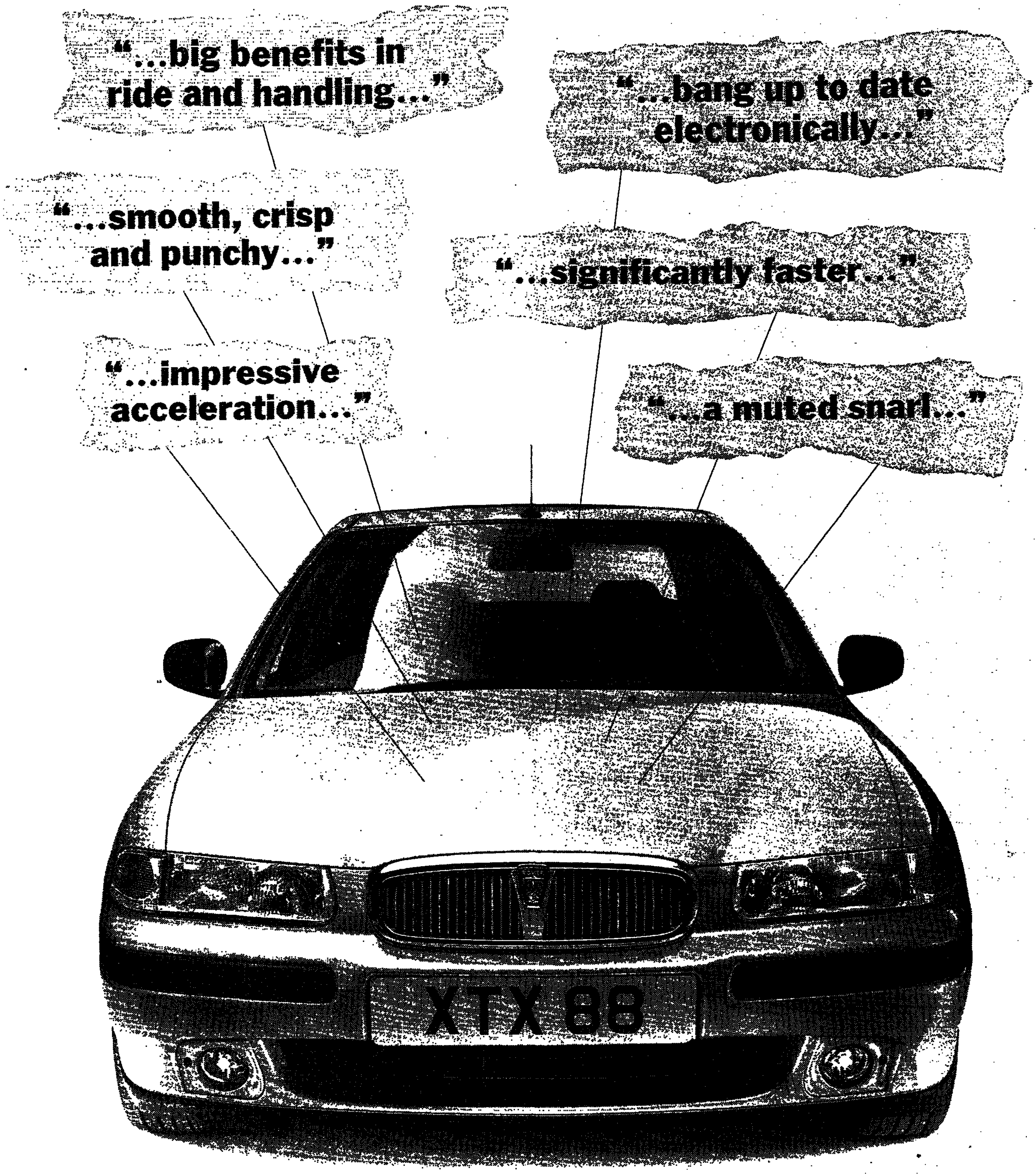
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Police hunting for missing Zoe Evans arrest her parents

By Stewart Tendler

THE mother and stepfather of Zoe Evans were arrested yesterday as police continued to search for traces of the missing nine-year-old.

Last night Wiltshire police would only confirm they were holding a local man and woman. The arrests came after police visited their home in army married quarters in Warminster barracks.

Zoe disappeared last Saturday. Her parents saw her on Friday night when she was checked sleeping in bed. But she was seen the following morning by a schoolboy neighbour at a park.

The arrests were announced yesterday by Detective Superintendent Colin Dixon, head of Wiltshire CID. A planned press conference was suddenly cancelled in the morning because the case had reached "a crucial stage". Police had been intending to launch a fresh national appeal for help to find the child.

Zoe Evans: missing

Mr Dixon said later that a couple were being held but added that a body had not been found and police still wanted help from people who may have seen the girl, who is of Asian appearance.

Earlier this week Paula Evans, 28, made a television appeal at a press conference which was cut short when she was overcome with emotion and ran sobbing from the room. Her husband, Private Miles Evans, 22, a driver for the Royal Logistics Corps, continued the appeal. Zoe will be 10 on January 27 and her parents said that a puppy dog would be waiting for her at home as an early present.

Flanked by Mr Dixon and another officer, Mr Evans appealed to his stepdaughter: "Zoe, we want you to come home. We all love you. You are just going to get lots of cuddles and hugs."

On Wednesday police found bloodstained clothing during searches of the Warminster area. One item was a girl's, another a male's. Police are awaiting forensic analysis of the blood.

Police were also trying to find a blond youth who was seen with the girl at the supermarket on Saturday afternoon. He was also believed to have followed her along a footpath to fields.

When Zoe was last seen, she was wearing a dark top and a black skirt. She had no coat and only £2 in cash. The Evanses married last August. Zoe's natural father lives in Malaysia.

Out of key: an apology by Brian Harvey, second right, failed to placate his colleagues

Ecstasy outburst is swansong for East 17 singer

By Emma Wilkins

THE lead singer of the pop group East 17 has been sacked by his colleagues because of his praise for the drug Ecstasy. The three other members of the band, who said they did not take illegal substances, decided to act the day after Brian Harvey, 22, spoke out in a radio interview.

Harvey apologised shortly after the interview, but Tony Mortimer, Terry Coldwell and John Hendy said that his "unacceptable behaviour" had driven them to drop him.

A statement from their management company said: "The remaining three members of East 17 under no circumstances can condone the taking of Ecstasy or any other illegal substances. They want it known that these remarks made by Brian Harvey do not reflect their views."

In an interview with LBC in London on Thursday morning, Harvey said Ecstasy was a safe drug which made users "better people". He said that it "increases love" and boasted that he had once taken 12 Ecstasy pills in one night. His comments attracted an angry response from the Prime Minister and Paul Betts, whose 18-year-old daughter Leah died after taking Ecstasy. They also led to the group's records being banned by 14 television and radio stations. A pre-recorded interview has been dropped from the children's programme *Scratchy and Co* on Carlton Television today.

Harvey's apology later on Thursday, in which he said his comments had been stupid and irresponsible, failed to placate his colleagues. All four members appeared last night on *Top of the Pops* on BBC1 singing their new single *Hey Child*, but their performance had been pre-recorded earlier in the week.

East 17 have sold more than one million records in the past three months. Their latest album, *Around The World — The Journey So Far*, has sold more than 600,000 copies since its release ten weeks ago. The single *If You Ever*, with Gabrielle, has sold 400,000 copies since its release 12 weeks ago.

PC Coulton is charged over arms discovery

By Daniel McGrory

THE Royal Protection Officer whose wife was murdered in the grounds of the nursing home where she worked was last night charged with firearms offences over weapons found at his home. PC Michael Coulton will appear before magistrates in Woking, Surrey, today.

He is charged with possession of a prohibited weapon, shortening a shotgun and possession of a firearm with intent to cause another to believe unlawful violence would be used against them. The charges are unrelated to his wife's death. PC Coulton, 52, was arrested after allegedly pointing a shotgun at two detectives who visited his home in Woking. His wife Patricia worked at the Lynwood nursing home, Sunninghill, near Ascot.

Bullimore says race is too dangerous

By Daniel McGrory

THE single-handed race that almost cost Tony Bullimore his life, and similar round-the-world-competitions, are becoming too dangerous, the yachtsman admitted yesterday. He believes future events need "taming".

Mr Bullimore, 58, who spent four days trapped in the upturned hull of his yacht in the Southern Ocean, said competitors were sailing too far south and that yacht designs were risking competitors' lives.

He spoke as the Chilean air force said it may have made contact with Gerry Roufs, a Canadian sailor who has been missing for ten days in the same race that has already seen Mr Bullimore and two others rescued. A search has been launched in the Cape Horn area.

Mr Bullimore voiced his reservations about such races in a BBC television interview last night. He said: "I think the organisers of the race have got to look deeply at the rules and regulations and may have to tame the race a bit, not allow the yachts to go so far south." He again pledged to try again "if I can get the right boat together".

CORRECTION

Phillip Crawley, managing director of The Times Supplements Limited, has been appointed managing director of the *New Zealand Herald*, not managing editor, as incorrectly reported yesterday.

Nº13

Lord of the Flies.

On Monday Waterstone's will be publishing an essential guide to 20th Century literature: the 100 greatest books of the century, as voted for by Waterstone's customers and Channel 4 viewers. How many of them will you have read? What will be at number one? And which books kept Golding's classic out of the top ten? To find out what some well known names think about the top 100, watch Book Choice on Channel 4 every evening next week at 7.55pm.

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Blair hopes 'Oxo mum' will beef up the female vote

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR, who has already flattened his bouffant hairstyle to try to woo disaffected women voters, has now recruited an "Oxo mum" to try to complete the transformation.

Labour's spin-doctors, in an attempt to mirror Bill Clinton's appeal to women voters, unveiled their own version of the 40-year-old advertising industry icon in their party political broadcast on Thursday night. Helen, a harassed middle-class mother in despair at poor schools, rising crime and NHS hospital waiting lists, is the latest weapon in the battle for the elusive female vote. "She is going to be our very own Oxo mum," beamed a proud Labour Party official last night.

If audience reaction is favourable, 36-year-old Penny Bunton, star of *Grown Ups*, a BBC sitcom, could have a starring role until polling day. However, her contract is unlikely to last as long as the Oxo matriach, who has been crumbling cubes since 1958.

It could also be a high-risk strategy. The "real" Oxo mum, Lynda Bellingham, who has starred as the perfect wife and mother for the past ten years, announced earlier this year that her marriage of 15 years was over.

Bellingham, who replaced the homely Mary Holland, the original Katie, was further embarrassed when *Mayfair* magazine unearthed topless pictures of her in an X-rated film, *Confessions of a Driving Instructor*. As for Mary Holland, little has been heard of her since she was ousted from the kitchen table.

A Labour official said of Ms Bunton: "She is very much new Labour. She voted Tory in 1979, but she votes for Labour now." Not that the actress was prepared to discuss her views on any political matter, let alone Mr Blair's hairstyle. "She is not at all political and is not prepared to make any comments on her political views," a spokeswoman for her agents, Kerry Gardner Management, said.

The role of Helen in the Labour Party commercial is not her first in the political arena. She played a researcher in *The Politician's Wife* who helped to expose her minister boss's marital affairs.

Labour officials have worked hard on Mr Blair's image with women after he was dubbed "smarmy" by his floating voter focus groups in Scotland last month. He has given interviews to magazines such as *Marie Claire* and *Bella* to try to improve his standing.

The jury is out on whether women will be impressed by Helen. But Brooke Bond, maker of Oxo, believes that its character may do the trick. "She has been a tremendous success with women for years," a spokeswoman said. "People love her."

Penny Bunton as she appears in the latest Labour Party broadcast

Bishops pledge to speak their minds during election

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent, and Glen Owen

BISHOPS in the Church of England pledged yesterday to speak out on political issues in the general election campaign.

The 53 bishops, who met privately this week in Liverpool, avowed their determination to fight for "a more just and holy world" as the election approached. The joint statement at such a politically sensitive time is thought to be unprecedented.

The bishops do not have a united political stance, but their determination to speak out for the homeless and unemployed means that, with few exceptions, many will be perceived as backing Labour.

"We intend to discuss and question the theological and ethical principles at stake in the election, as well as speak on specific issues where we have experience and knowledge," they said. "We share responsibility not just for individual souls but for tackling corporate sin and pointing to the spiritual goals of society as a whole." The bishops, whose meeting was chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said that they affirmed "the importance and validity of the creation of wealth".

But they added: "At the same time we recall that each of us was charged at our consecration to have a special care for the outcast and needy. We must therefore be advocates for those who are excluded from access to well-being or influence in society, such as the homeless and the unemployed, young and old alike, and the mentally ill."

The statement comes a few days after five English bishops issued statements which were sympathetic to the Labour Party, and the Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, came out in open advocacy of Labour.

A more measured view came last week from the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, who said that more must be made of Britain's successes and achievements over the past two decades.

☐ Christian conservatives have launched their own anti-Labour election campaign under the banner "new Labour, Christian values in danger" and featuring a picture of a dishevelled clergyman weeping a red tear. The Christian Fellowship will distribute leaflets to more than 5,000 churches arguing that Labour would damage Christian values, for example by possibly allowing homosexuals to marry, or by introducing euthanasia.

A spokesman for the Christian Socialist Movement condemned the campaign. "To say that new Labour represents a threat to Christian values is scaremongering. We will be pushing better jobs, better housing, and better health care."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

Straw denies pressure to make bugging U-turn

By Frances Gibb and Alice Thomson

JACK STRAW was forced to deny yesterday that he had bowed to pressure from Labour backbenchers and staged a U-turn over bugging. The Shadow Home Secretary was accused of abandoning his hardline stance on crime by trying to curtail chief constables' power to authorise break-ins and bugging.

The police want new search powers to fight terrorism and organised crime. But Mr Straw put down last-minute amendments to the Police Bill which could mean the Government is defeated on the issue in the Lords next week.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that Mr Straw's volte-face would inhibit the fight against crime. He said Labour could no longer be trusted on law and order. But the Liberal Democrats praised the move. "We should all rejoice when a sinner comes to repentance," said Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank.

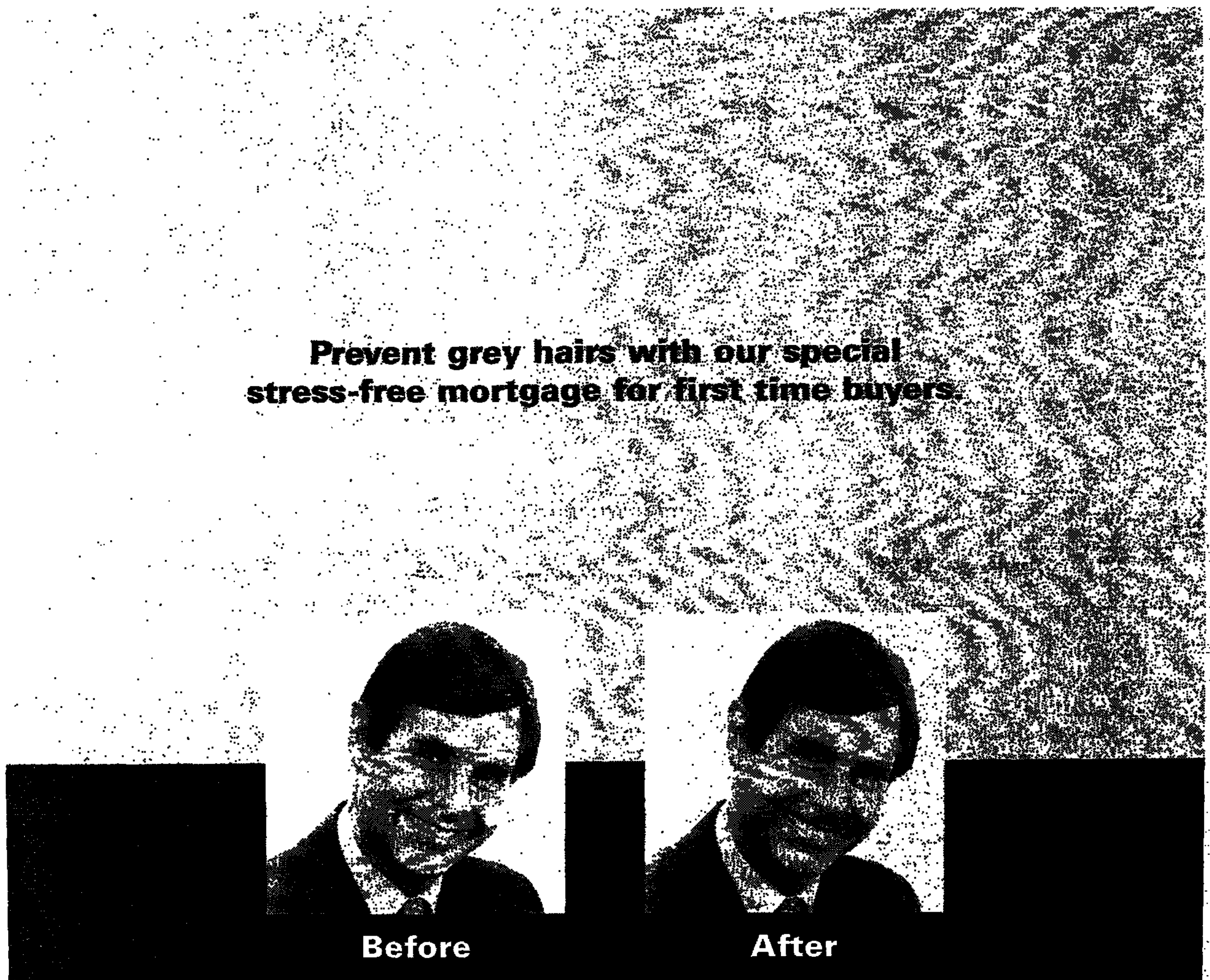
Mr Straw had originally planned to wave the Bill through, but, after increasing pressure from his own backbenchers, the Law lords and many Labour peers, including a former Prime Minister, Mr Straw drafted a series of amendments in the Lords.

Mr Straw said: "It was we in the Labour Party who called last year, with backing from Conservative members, for this whole system to be put on a statutory basis. But this Bill is badly drafted. Our amendments will ensure that civil liberties are protected."

At present the Bill gives chief constables wide powers to bug civilians. Labour's proposals would force the police to seek prior consent from a commissioner — a senior judge — before authorising a surveillance operation. They would also increase protection for lawyers, doctors and journalists.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, and leading Tory peers yesterday made it clear that they were likely to vote with Labour. They and senior judges such as Lord Browne-Wilkinson will effectively decide the outcome of the vote. Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, the Conservative peer and a former chairman of the Bar Council, said he did not believe the Government amendments to the Police Bill "meet the concerns at all".

Leading article, page 23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CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO THE FREE ACCIDENT, SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVER. FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE BASIC RATE (CURRENTLY 7.25%/7.5% APR) WILL BE CHARGED. THE FIRST TIME BUYER MORTGAGE IS RESTRICTED TO 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). THE SOCIETY'S FIRST TIME BUYER MORTGAGE IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES. THE 2% CASHBACK IS PAYABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE (UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £4000). THE VALUATION REFUND IS LIMITED TO THE VALUE OF THE SOCIETY'S OPTION 1 VALUATION AND IS PAYABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE. TO QUALIFY FOR A VALUATION REFUND, THE SOCIETY MUST CHOOSE AND INSTRUCT THE VALUER (PROCEDURES DIFFER IN SCOTLAND). THE VALUATION REFUND CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER VALUATION REFUND OFFER. NO ARRANGEMENT FEE IS PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF THE FIRST TIME BUYER MORTGAGE, BUT YOU WILL STILL INCUR LEGAL COSTS. IF YOU WANT TO PAY BACK ALL OR PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE WITHIN THE FIRST 5 YEARS (THE REPAYMENT FEE PERIOD) A REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE. THIS WILL BE CHARGED AT 6 MONTHS' GROSS INTEREST (AT THE SOCIETY'S BASIC VARIABLE RATE) IN THE FIRST 3 YEARS, AND 3 MONTHS' IN YEARS 4 AND 5. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE ON THIS KIND OF OBLIGATION, YOU MAY PREFER OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGE WITHOUT A CASHBACK OR OUR NO REPAYMENT FEE MORTGAGE. IF THE SOCIETY AGREES TO YOU TRANSFERRING FROM YOU CURRENT PRODUCT TO ANOTHER OF THE SOCIETY'S PRODUCTS WITHIN THE REPAYMENT FEE PERIOD SPECIFIED, THE REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF TRANSFER. THE REPAYMENT FEE WILL BE WAIVED IF YOU MOVE HOME AND IMMEDIATELY TAKE OUT YOUR NEW MORTGAGE WITH THE SOCIETY. IF YOUR MORTGAGE INCLUDES AN ELEMENT OF BORROWING UNRELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF YOUR HOUSE, OR IMPROVEMENT TO IT, THE MORTGAGE MUST BE RESTRICTED TO 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). ANY SUCH LOANS UNRELATED TO YOUR HOUSE PURCHASE, OR IMPROVEMENT TO IT, MAY BE CHARGED AT A DIFFERENT RATE. FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOU LOCAL BRANCH. FOR INTEREST ONLY MORTGAGES AN APPROPRIATE PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN (PEP), PENSION PLAN OR ENDOWMENT POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED (CONTRIBUTIONS/PREMIUMS WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE COMPANY INVOLVED). YOUR HOME IS SECURITY FOR THE LOAN AND MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED. LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER. FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER) A HIGH PERCENTAGE LOAN FEE IS NORMALLY CHARGED. DETAILS OF THIS FEE ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. HOWEVER FOR THE FIRST TIME BUYER MORTGAGE, THIS FEE WILL BE PAID BY THE SOCIETY. IN THE EXAMPLE GIVEN THIS WOULD BE £836. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE INCLUDES VALUATION CHARGE OF £180.00 SOLICITOR'S MORTGAGE CHARGE OF £117.50 (CHARGES MAY VARY IN SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND). DEEDS PRODUCTION CHARGE £40.00 AND £80.00 REDEMPTION AND SEALING CHARGE. THE SOLICITOR'S MORTGAGE CHARGE ONLY COVERS WORK CARRIED OUT FOR THE SOCIETY AND NOT ANY WORK CARRIED OUT ON YOUR BEHALF. ASK YOUR SOLICITOR FOR DETAILS OF ANY ADDITIONAL FEES PAYABLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE EXAMPLE BELOW PLEASE ASK FOR AN ILLUSTRATION OR A CONSUMER CREDIT ACT 1974 LEAFLET AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. EXAMPLE: £52,000 INTEREST ONLY LOAN FOR 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY VALUED AT £55,000 AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 7.25% (7.5% APR) (VARIABLE) WITH THE FIRST MONTHLY INTEREST ONLY PAYMENT OF £489.22 (GROSS) (INCLUDING ACCRUED INTEREST) FOLLOWED BY 299 PAYMENTS OF £314.17 (GROSS). TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE IS [illegible]. A CASHBACK OF 2% OF THE LOAN TOTALLING £1040 IS PAID AFTER COMPLETION OF THE MORTGAGE. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, HOVE ADMINISTRATION, HOVE PARK, HOVE, EAST SUSSEX, BN3 7AZ. ALLIANCE & LEICESTER MARKETING GROUP, CONSISTING OF ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY AND ALLIANCE & LEICESTER LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED, WHICH ARE REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND ALLIANCE & LEICESTER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED WHICH IS REGULATED BY IMRO, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, UNIT TRUST AND PEP PRODUCTS. JANUARY 1997

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY

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1. Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (please tick box)
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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

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SERVIS 1000 Spin Autowasher
- Quick wash.
- Half load option.

Model M301W. Was ~~£358.99~~ Was £269.99. In-store Price £249.99
SAVE A TOTAL OF £120 VOUCHER PRICE £239.99
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CANDY 1200 Spin Autowasher
- Half load option.
- Quick wash.

Model C1261. Was ~~£389.99~~. Was £279.99.
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CREDA 1000 Spin 'Ecowash' Autowasher
Model 17086. Was £399.99. In-store Price £299.99.
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PHILCO 1200 Spin 'Ecotronic' Autowasher
- 14 programmes.
- Adjustable thermostat.

Model WM1201SE. Was £399.99.
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HOOVER 1100 Spin 'New Wave' Autowasher
- Ecological wash system.
- Delay timer.

Model AC170. Was £469.99.
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BOSCH 1000 Spin 'Shower System' Autowasher
- 11 wash programmes.
- Economy option.

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ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Autowasher
- Variable wash time.
- Also available in almond.

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ZANUSSI 1200 Spin 'Jet System' Autowasher
Rinse sensor. Model FJ1295. Was ~~£569.99~~. Was £469.99. In-store Price £459.99.
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AEG 1000 Spin 'Digitronic' Autowasher
- Self adjusting water level.
- Quiet operation.
- 19 programmes.

Model 6200. Was £579.99.
SAVE £100 SALE PRICE £479.99
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ZANUSSI 1200 Spin 'Jetsystem RSI' Autowasher
- Variable spin speed.
- Economy wash.

Model FJ1298. Was ~~£569.99~~. Was £519.99.
SAVE £70 SALE PRICE £499.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

HOOVER 1100 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer
- Ecological wash system.
- Crease guard action.

Model AB754/AB756. Britain's biggest selling Washer Dryer. Was £548.99.
SAVE £150 SALE PRICE £399.99
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HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius' Washer Dryer
- Aquarius wash system.
- Quick wash.

Model WD23. Was ~~£599.99~~. Was £499.99.
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WHITE KNIGHT 7lb Tumble Dryer
- Cooldown cycle.
- 2 heat settings.
- Compact size.

Model 311. Was ~~£129.99~~. Was £109.99.
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WHITE KNIGHT 11lb Tumble Dryer
- Cooldown facility.
- 2 heat settings.
- 120 minute timer.

Model 412. Was ~~£159.99~~. Was £129.99.
SAVE £40 SALE PRICE £119.99

ZANUSSI 11lb Condenser Dryer
- Reverse tumble action.
- Automatic cool down system.

Model TC470. Was £409.99.
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DISHWASHERS SALE SAVE UP TO £160

CANDY Full Size 'Ecosystem' Dishwasher
- 4 programmes.
- Delicate cycle.

Model C4100. Was £369.99. In-store Price £249.99.
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HOOVER Full size 'Soft Wave' Dishwasher
- Multi-directional spray.
- Economy option.
- Heat boost drying.

Model D7436. Was £429.99.
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CANDY Full Size Dishwasher
- Softline styling.
- 7 programmes.
- Adjustable top basket.

Model CDW470. Was £399.99.
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BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher
- Electronic delay timer.
- 4 programmes.
- Quiet operation.

Model SMS4472. Was £439.99.
SAVE £80 SALE PRICE £359.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher
- Very quiet operation.
- 6 programmes.
- Salt refill indicator.

Model SMS6012. Was £519.99.
SAVE £120 SALE PRICE £399.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

ZANUSSI Full Size 'Aquasave' Dishwasher
- Economy cycle.
- 9 programmes.
- Multi-rack baskets.

Model DW927. Was ~~£519.99~~. Was £429.99.
SAVE £100 SALE PRICE £419.99
BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER

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BOSCH Slimline 'Ecological' Dishwasher
- 6 programmes.
- 3 cleaning temperatures.

Model SPS6432. Was £499.99.
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UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON A RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS

HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius De Luxe' Autowasher
- Aquarius wash system.
- Slow spin speed.
- Quick wash.
- No-heat economy wash.

Model WM25. Was ~~£499.99~~. Was £399.99.
SAVE £120 SALE PRICE £379.99
BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER

HOTPOINT Full size 'Ultima' Dishwasher
- 8 programmes.
- 9 hour delay timer.
- Adjustable upper basket.

Model DF32. Was £499.99.
SALE PRICE £399.99 SAVE £100
BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER

CANDY 8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 5.2 cu.ft. fridge.
- 4 star freezer rating.

Model CDP230G. In-store Price £219.99.
VOUCHER PRICE £199.99 SAVE £20

PANASONIC 29" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext
- 68cm visible screen size.
- Auto set-up.
- Cabinet included.

Model 29AD2DP. Was £999.99. In-store Price £849.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £200 VOUCHER PRICE £799.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

MATSUI 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus PDC and Auto Set-Up
4-heads for improved slow-motion and freeze frame. Model VP9061. Was £269.99. In-store Price £249.99. LOWEST EVER PRICE
SAVE A TOTAL OF £40 VOUCHER PRICE £229.99

MATSUI 1.0 cu.ft. Touch Control Microwave
- 950 watts power output.
- 6 menu programme cooking.
- One-touch cooking.

Model 196TC. Was £179.99.
SALE PRICE £109.99 SAVE £70

STOVES 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker. Finished in Brass and Racing Green.
- Separate oven and grill.
- Fully sealed hotplate.
- Also available in Blue and Red.
- Push button ignition.

Model NEWHOME 502GS. Was £549.99. "Excellent value for money" Stoves 502GS AS SEEN IN BBC GOOD FOOD MAGAZINE
SALE PRICE £449.99 SAVE £100
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

ELECTROLUX Widetrack Upright Cleaner
- 1300 watt motor.
- Micro filter.
- Widetrack 15" base.
- Ergonomic deluxe handle.

Model 1480. Was ~~£199.99~~. Was £149.99. In-store Price £139.99.
VOUCHER PRICE £119.99 SAVE A TOTAL OF £80

MATSUI Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Logic controlled cassette deck.
- Silver finish.

Model MCH850. In-store Price £119.99.
SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £109.99

TEFAL 'Ultra-Glide' Jet-of-Steam Iron
- Variable steam output.
- Removable anti-scale valve.

Model 1606. Was £39.99.
SALE PRICE £29.99 SAVE £10

PACKARD BELL Internet Ready 100MHz Pentium® Processor Multimedia PC
- 8Mb RAM/850Mb hard drive.
- 28.8k.bps modem.
- Quad-speed CD-ROM drive.
- Remote control + radio card.

Model 909D. Was ~~£1449~~. Was ~~£1299~~. Was £1149. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
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MATSUI 20" Teletext TV with Remote Control
- 49cm visible screen size.
- Teletext for access to information services.

Model 20VIT. Was £219.99.
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GRUNDIG 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 51cm visible screen size.
- Includes stand.

Model ST55 725. Was £329.99.
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HITACHI 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 51cm visible screen size.
- Fastext.
- Complete with stand.

Model 2166. Was £359.99.
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PANASONIC 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 51cm visible screen size.
- Complete with stand.

Model 21MDI. In-store Price £379.99
SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £359.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

BUSH 28" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext
- 66cm visible screen size.
- Teletext for access to information services.

Model 2863NTX. In-store Price £429.99.
SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £399.99
BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER

SANYO 25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 59cm visible screen size.
- Fastext.
- Complete with stand.

Model 5957. Was £449.99.
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BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

HITACHI 25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 59cm visible screen size
- Fastext for quick access to Teletext pages.
- Complete with stand.

Model 2566. Was £479.99. In-store Price £469.99
SAVE A TOTAL OF £30 VOUCHER PRICE £449.99
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SONY 25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 59cm visible screen size.
- IQ picture facility.

Model 25F1. Was £599.99. In-store Price £499.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £110 VOUCHER PRICE £489.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

JVC 25" Dolby Pro-Logic TV with 3DS Phonic Sound System
59cm visible screen size. Model 255X1. Was £649.99.
SAVE £50 SALE PRICE £599.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

SONY 29" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext
- 68cm visible screen size
- Fastext for easy access to Teletext services.

Model 29F1. Was £699.99.
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HOME CINEMA CHOICE BEST BUY

TOSHIBA 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext
- 66cm visible screen size.
- Includes cabinet.

Model 2857. Was £899.99. In-store Price £849.99.
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BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

PHILIPS 28" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound
- 67cm visible screen size.
- Fastext.

Model 28W963.
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FREE PORTABLE TV Ask for details

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MATSUI 14" Teletext TV with Remote Control
34cm visible screen size. Model 14V1T. Was £159.99.
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SONY 14" Fastext TV with Remote Control
- 34cm visible screen size.
- Tilt and swivel base.

Model 14T1. Was £249.99. In-store Price £209.99.
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TV/VIDEO PACKAGES SALE SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £100

SHARP 21" Fastext TV with Remote Control
51cm visible screen size. Model 51AT15. PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus Model VM24. Total Separate Selling Price £499.98. In-store Price £449. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE A TOTAL OF £100 VOUCHER PRICE £399

JVC 21" Fastext TV with Remote Control
51cm visible screen size. Model 21ET1. PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus Model HRJ231. Total Separate Selling Price £549.98. SAVE £70
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION CURRYS PRICE £479

TOP BRAND VIDEOS SALE SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £80

MATSUI Long Play Video with Remote Control
- Long play increases recording time of tapes.
- Infra-red remote control.

Model VXA1100. Was £149.99. BEST SELLER
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MATSUI Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC Auto set up.
Model VP9405. In-store Price £169.99.
SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £159.99

AIWA Long Play Video with VideoPlus
- On-screen display.
- Auto-head cleaning.
- Auto tracking.

Model HVGX350. Was £199.99.
SAVE £20 SALE PRICE £179.99

SANYO 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus
VideoPlus for easiest programming ever. Was £279.99. In-store Price £269.99. Model VHR776. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE A TOTAL OF £30 VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

SHARP 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus
Long play for increased recording and playback time of tapes. Model VCMH54. Was £279.99. In-store Price £259.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £30 VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

PANASONIC 4-Head Long Play Video with VideoPlus
4-heads for enhanced freeze frame and slow motion picture quality. Model NVHD410. In-store Price £329.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £299.99

SONY 4-Head Super-Tri-Logic NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC
Super Tri-Logic for improved picture quality. Model SLVE710. Was £449.99. In-store Price £399.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
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NOVA SCOTIA 5.1 cu.ft. Fridge
- Reversible door.
- Adjustable thermostat.

Model NS1400/5106. In-store Price £119.99.
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CANDY 4.7 cu.ft. Fridge with 3-Star Freezer Compartment
- Reversible door.
- Auto fridge defrost.

Model CTA140G. Was £199.99. In-store Price £159.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £70 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Fridge
- Large salad bin.
- Adjustable thermostat.

Model R106. Was ~~£199.99~~. Was £149.99.
SAVE £60 SALE PRICE £139.99

BEKO 4.1 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- Fast freeze section.
- Indicator lights.

Model BZ602.
SUPERB VALUE CURRYS PRICE £149.99

LEC 3.7 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- 4-star freezer rating.
- Reversible door.

Model U550W5. Was ~~£229.99~~. Was £179.99.
SAVE £60 SALE PRICE £169.99

HOTPOINT 5.6 cu.ft. Larder Fridge
- Softline styling.
- Automatic defrost.

Model RL61. Was ~~£289.99~~. Was £249.99.
SAVE £70 SALE PRICE £219.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

FRIGIDAIRE 10.3 cu.ft. Chest Freezer
- Fast freeze facility.
- 4-star freezer rating.

Model FC1036. Was £319.99. In-store Price £249.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £80 VOUCHER PRICE £239.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

CANDY 9.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 5.7 cu.ft. fridge.
- Tiltable shelves.

Model CCM28/12G. Was £399.99. In-store Price £299.99.
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BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

LEC 8.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 4.0 cu.ft. fridge.
- 4.3 cu.ft. freezer.
- Adjustable thermostat.

Model N216. Was £369.99.
SAVE £80 SALE PRICE £289.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

CANDY 10.1 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer
- 5.7 cu.ft. fridge.
- Tiltable shelves.

Model CCNF29/13. In-store Price £479.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £130 VOUCHER PRICE £349.99
BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER

ELECTROLUX 9.3 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer
- 4.7 cu.ft. fridge.
- 4.6 cu.ft. freezer.

Model ER2656. Was £539.99. In-store Price £439.99.
SAVE A TOTAL OF £140 VOUCHER PRICE £399.99
BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER

AEG 12.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 2 compressors.
- External thermostat.

Model 3534. Was £649.99.
SAVE £50 SALE PRICE £599.99
BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER

HOTPOINT 12.0 cu.ft. Mistral Plus Frost Free Fridge Freezer
Deep door fridge. Model 8596PA. Was £729.99.
SAVE £130 SALE PRICE £599.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

BOSCH 11.0 cu.ft. Frost Free Fridge Freezer
Electronic controls. Model KGU3201. Was £759.99.
SAVE £100 SALE PRICE £659.99
BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER

COOKERS SALE SAVE UP TO £170

FRIGIDAIRE 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker.
- Single oven with glass door.
- Solid plate hob.

Model CP1450. Was ~~£189.99~~. Was £179.99.
SAVE £20 SALE PRICE £169.99

PARKINSON COWAN 50cm Eye-Level Gas Cooker
Model CLASSIC. Price Excluding Trade-in £299.99.
SAVE £50 TRADE-IN PRICE £249.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

CANNON 54cm Slot-in Gas Cooker
- Double oven.
- Available in green, brown or white.

Model CAMBERLEY. Was ~~£779.99~~. £699.99.
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HOTPOINT 60cm Slot-in Electric Cooker
- Fan main oven.
- 1 Halogen zone.

Model EW71P. Was ~~£949.99~~. Was £799.99.
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BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

MICROWAVES SALE SAVE UP TO £70

SANYO 0.6 cu.ft. Compact Microwave
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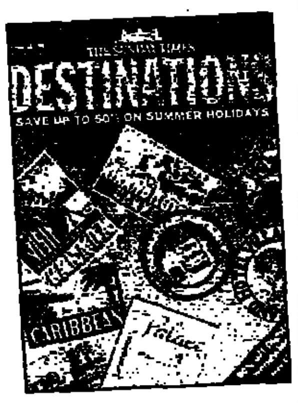

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Bludgeoned wife's lover collapses in family murder trial

By Paul Wilkinson

Russell Hirst arrives at court yesterday before collapsing as he was about to tell of his affair with Mrs Howells

THE lover of Eve Howells, the woman whose husband and sons are charged with her murder, collapsed in court yesterday as he was about to tell of their 12-year affair.

Russell Hirst slumped forward in the witness box on the second day of the trial of Mrs Howell's husband, David, and their teenage sons, Glenn and John. Mr Hirst, 38, had told the jury at Leeds Crown Court that he had known the family for 20 years since he started as an apprentice fitter working for Mr Howells at a chemical plant in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire.

He had become a close family friend and gone on holiday with them, he said. But, as Franz Muller, for the prosecution, questioned him about his involvement with the Howellses, he asked for a glass of water before falling forward on to his arms. A court usher cradled his head as a first-aider was called. Then the burly, 6ft Mr Hirst was laid out, apparently unconscious, alongside the public gallery.

The court was cleared and, after ten minutes, Mr Hirst walked with assistance to the restaurant. When the trial resumed 20 minutes later, Mr Justice Alliott, the trial judge, told the jury that Mr Hirst had gone to Leeds General Infirmary for checks. The judge said: "I have been told it was nothing worst than a faint. I was following his statement and the poor chap was just one line away from admitting his adultery, so perhaps it was not surprising."

Later the judge said that, on doctor's advice, Mr Hirst would not give evidence until Monday. *The trial has already* heard that Mr Howells, 47, had told detectives he was unaware of the affair, but had told a cellmate while on remand that he discovered the relationship two months before his 48-year-old wife's death on the night of August 31, 1995. She died under a hail of blows to the head from a stonemason's hammer as she sat in the living room at their bungalow in Huddersfield.

Mr Howells, a maintenance fitter, and his sons, who were 15 and 14 at the time, have denied murder. Glenn Howells, now 17, has admitted manslaughter because of provocation by his mother, who he claims mentally and emotionally abused him for five years. Initially the boys said that she had been killed by an intruder while they walked their dog and Mr Howells played darts.

The prosecution claims that Mr Howells and his sons *plotted to kill Mrs Howells*, a history and religious instruction teacher at Newsome High School in Huddersfield, because of her domineering and tyrannical ways. While the boys carried out the killing, Mr Howells set up an alibi at the darts match, it was alleged.

Yesterday Jamesena Stevwright, Mrs Howells's aunt, said that, shortly after the killing, she had visited the family at the hotel where they were staying. She said: "David told me he and Russell Hirst had gone to sleep on the bed crying."

Mr Howells had just been to identify his wife in the mortuary. She said: "He said, 'She was lovely, she was beautiful, beautiful,' but the look in his eyes ... my spine chilled. I have never experienced anything like it before."

Earlier, John Chadwick, Mrs Howells's head of department, had said he was unaware of her nickname at school of "Evil" Howells. He said she was often sharp with pupils and tended to deal with them "head-on".

"She had a formal style and high expectations. She expected work to be done and, if it was not, she would challenge them about it. She had very little tact, she did not understand the effect she could have on the children. They were often upset at the way she spoke to them."

Anthony Folan, a schoolfriend of Glenn Howells, said under cross-examinations that the brothers were expected to do their own washing and ironing and clean their bedroom. Mrs Howells would subject it to a military-style inspection. He agreed that they could be banned from going out for at least a week for such offences as leaving a apple core in their room.

The hearing continues.

Small Latin and less Greek for pupils of future

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

LATIN and Greek will dwindle further in comprehensive school sixth-forms as a result of new limits next year on A-level syllabuses, Classics teachers said yesterday.

Sir Ron Dearing, in one of his last acts before retiring as chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, asked the four A-level examining boards in England to reduce the number of syllabuses to two each in the major subjects. Less popular subjects such as Latin would be allowed only one syllabus per board.

Classicists claimed that the move would threaten popular syllabuses with a high level of coursework, which are considered essential to attract pupils from outside the grammar and independent schools. Teachers in other minority subjects said they faced the same danger.

The lower limit would apply to subjects with fewer than 15,000 candidates. Even at GCSE, Latin attracted fewer than 12,000 entries last year. Barbara Bell, executive secretary of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, said: "It is already difficult to keep Classics on the timetable in state schools because they cannot afford the small classes. This will be one more obstacle, especially if it influences GCSE syllabuses."

Coursework is limited to 20 per cent at A level, but independent schools, which provide the majority of candidates in Classics, opt mainly for wholly examined syllabuses.

Peter Jones, a founder of Friends of the Classics and lecturer in the subject at Newcastle University, said: "With so much variation in pupils' experience of Latin and Greek below the sixth form, that element of coursework can make all the difference."

A spokeswoman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said a reduction in the number of syllabuses would make it easier to guarantee standards. The authority felt that one syllabus per board was adequate for subjects with a small entry, but would not act unreasonably if there was evidence that a subject might be damaged.

Nick Tate, the chief executive, appealed to state schools last year not to abandon classical studies. He said Latin and Greek were part of the "cement which holds together the consciousness of nation".

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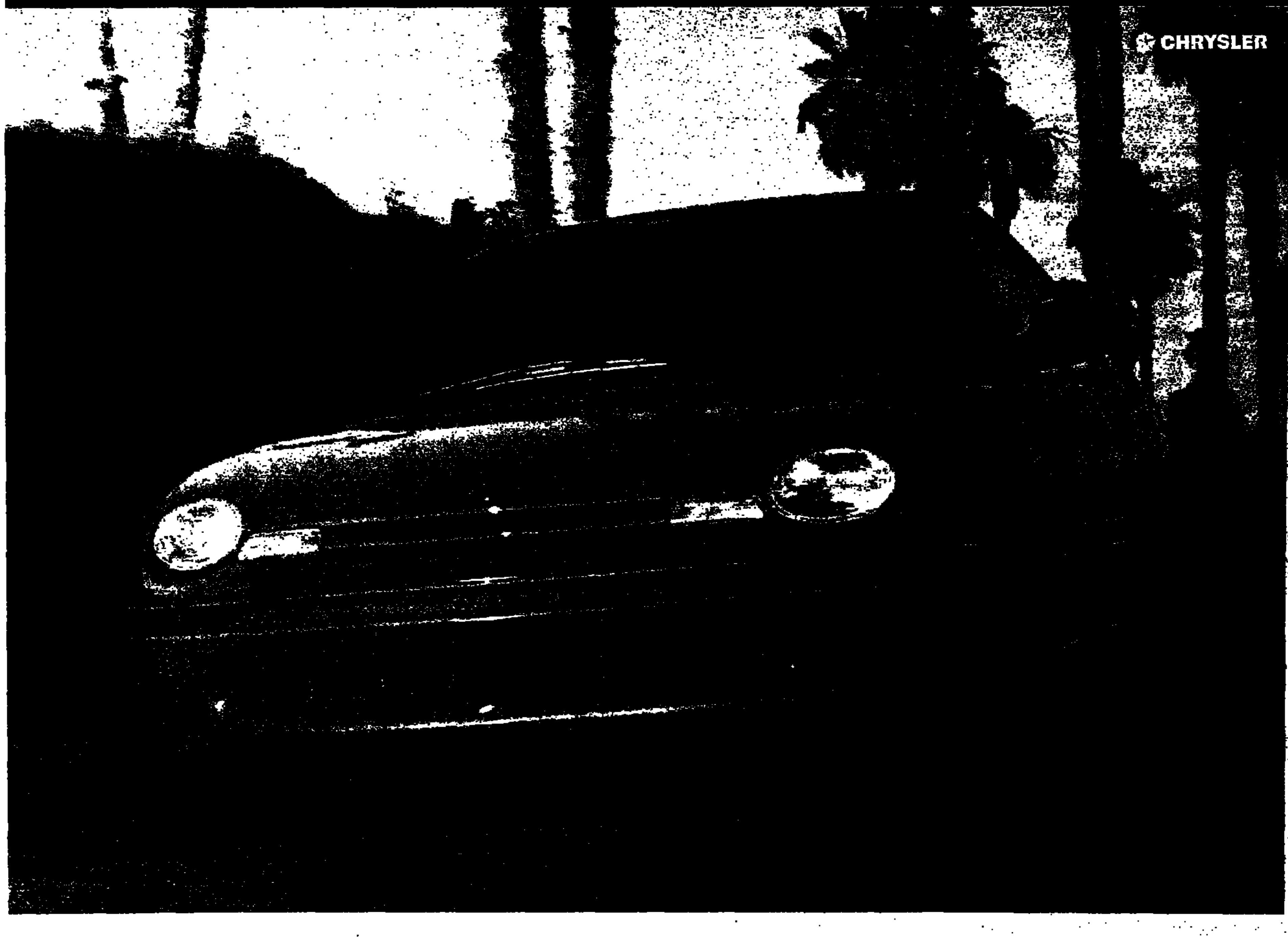

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Celebration of children's festival affirms our quest for knowledge

Credo

Rabbi Albert Friedlander

THE religious quest is the search for knowledge in a world which grows more complex every day. Sacred texts guide us, but we need instruction from other sources as well. The ancients found inspiration in nature, which they peopled with many gods: even trees had dryads which could inspire humans. The Garden of Eden contained the Tree of Knowledge as well as the Tree of Life.

Next week, Jews celebrate *Tu B'Sh'vat* — the New Year of the Trees. Most religions have some kind of observance where ancient traditions emerge to remind us that we are part of nature and often depend on the bounties of the earth for sustenance. This festival, which bids us to eat the fruit of many trees, fits that pattern.

The fifteenth day of the month of Sh'vat, at the end of the rainy season, was the time of determining the tithes for all the fruit of trees which blossom before *Tu B'Sh'vat*. It was a minor harvest feast, which developed in two ways: as a feast for the mystics, with a special prayerbook possibly compiled by Nathan of Gaza, the "prophet" of the pseudo messiah Shabbatai Zevi; and as a happy folk observance.

In earlier days, Sephardic communities, in Baghdad, for example, made it a family occasion. Little sacks embroidered with their children's names and filled with sugared almonds and hazelnuts were hung around their necks. In well-to-do homes, one tried to collect 50 different kinds of fruit for a banquet where each guest read a paragraph from a special text and was given a fruit for which he said the appropriate blessing. Even now, a night of study may take place where texts from the Bible, the Talmud and the mystic *Zohar* book are studied.

Why this emphasis on study? Perhaps, here, we come to that other pillar of Jewish life which belongs to all our religious observances: study as part of worship and as part of our home life. "The Torah," says our liturgy, "is the Tree of Life." Somehow, we are transported back to the Garden of Eden, to the Tree of Knowledge and the Tree of Life that grow in its centre. As the Bible and our own experience inform us, everlasting life is beyond us: we cannot be like gods. But we can *sit around* the Tree of Knowledge and know good from evil, and we come to recognise that its fruits will always sustain us. Celebrating a "New Year of the Trees" may then contain a special insight into the human condition.

Tu B'Sh'vat is no longer a mystic feast celebrated by scholars. It has become even more a children's festival, and there is the recognition that the quest for knowledge begins with the child and is a joyous affirmation of a tradition of learning which commences at the very beginning. The children of Jerusalem have a school holiday, go into the fields and plant trees, and share this feast with Jewish children throughout the world.

The Diaspora has also created happy rituals which convey that knowledge is not only acquired in books but in the woods and gardens. We cannot return to the Garden of Eden, to Paradise and the actual Tree of Knowledge. But, on this festival, the thought may come to us that Eve was right in forcing Adam to eat that fateful apple. We cannot live without the quest for knowledge. Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, their kindergarten, so that their children could grow, develop, and eat the fruit of knowledge.

Albert Friedlander is Dean of Leo Baeck College and Rabbi of Westminster Synagogue

Defender of the faith

A FORMER professional footballer who swapped his boots for the Bible is to return as a vicar to the town where he played. The Rev Peter Hart, former captain of Walsall FC, will take charge of St Martin's Church.

Mr Hart, who is married with two daughters, made 472 appearances as a defender for the club. He began a theology course in 1990 and later served as a curate in Derbyshire.

Mr Hart, 39, takes up his new post in May. He hopes to return to the Second Division club's Bescot Stadium — on the terraces, rather than the pitch.

"It's very exciting to be coming back," he said. "I've got lots of happy memories from my time with Walsall. I gave up football gladly when I got my new vocation, but the game's always popping up when I tell my life story and of how I became a Christian."

Samuel Johnson, whose low opinion of women preachers still pervades more than 200 years later

Women preachers suffer as men turn a deaf ear

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

MALE worshippers' dislike of being told what to do by a female is making life difficult for women preachers, according to a report published this month.

Research into the problems faced by women preachers has revealed that many are faced with ambivalence or even hostility from men in the congregation. Men are uncomfortable with women in authority "because of the instinctive feelings of infantile dependency they engender", the research suggests.

The report, published in the 1997 fellowship paper of the College of Preachers, comes nearly three years after the first women were ordained to the priesthood in the Church of England, although women were preaching from Anglican and Methodist pulpits for decades before that. But, prompting the question of how much, if anything, has changed, it comes more than two centuries after Samuel Johnson said: "A woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hinder legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all."

Of the entries so far to this year's *Times*/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award, about one fifth are women. In the previous two years, at least one woman has made the final five or six.

The report, by Canon Peter Kerr, of the Church of Ireland, is based on the results of surveys of episcopal congregations in America. The research, by Professor Lee McGhee of Yale Divinity School, is based on surveys carried out in 1979 and 1994, and examines how congregations listen to and perceive women's preaching.

Canon Kerr said: "There would seem to be definite differences in the way people listen to men and women in the pulpit, though these are less marked in the later survey, perhaps because congregations are more used to women preachers."

But he says there were differences. "The content of women's preaching was described as personal and innovative whereas men preached scholarly, informative and knowledgeable sermons." Professor McGhee found that men were considered forceful, persuasive and loud in their delivery, while women were clear, sincere and evoked emotion.

Canon Kerr wrote: "For the past 2,000 years it is the male voice that has dominated, not just in preaching, but in liturgy and theology. In other words, congregations are just not used to women preachers."

☐ The closing date for entries to *The Times*/College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award is March 31. The final will be held in November in Durham Cathedral. For the first time, entrants may submit tapes of their sermons.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13

Dying man is granted Ireland's first divorce

By Audrey Magee

THE first divorce in the history of the Irish Republic was granted yesterday to a terminally ill man who wants to marry again before he dies.

The case in the High Court in Dublin ends Ireland's centuries-old ban. It was the last country in the European Union to introduce divorce.

The man, who cannot be named, is aged 68 and is believed to have a brain tumour. He wanted to divorce his first wife in the hope of settling all financial and legal matters with his long-term partner before his death. He has three adult children with his wife and a daughter with his lover.

But he feared he would be dead before legislation permitting divorce came into effect. Although the Irish voted in November 1995 to allow divorce, the Family Law (Divorce) 1996 Act does not take effect until February 27.

The man claimed his constitutional rights were being infringed by the Irish Government's failure to introduce the legislation in time for him to divorce and remarry. Judge Henry Barron agreed and granted the divorce, which was not contested.

The man, his wife and lover live close to one another in south Dublin. They are on friendly terms. The man and his partner are professionals who run their practice in a building owned by the wife.

Divorce had once been commonplace in Ireland under Brehon law. But the arrival from Rome of St Patrick and Palladius, the first bishop to Ireland, in the 5th century, led to Brehon laws being replaced by Christian ones.

Yesterday's decision was welcomed by divorce groups. An estimated 80,000 people are separated in Ireland and many are awaiting divorce.

The Catholic Church said it accepted divorce was now inevitable. "The Church accepts that decision and we will work with the law."

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Eric Hebborn continues to haunt art world with posthumous publication of the secrets of his trade

Top forger's DIY guide to creating Old Masters

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A YEAR after he was murdered, Eric Hebborn, the master forger who duped the art world in the 1960s with more than 1,000 Old Master drawings, is having the last laugh. His guide to how to fake a work of art is to be published posthumously.

Everything an aspiring faker needs to know is there and, as Hebborn admitted, reads in parts like a cookery book: recipes for inks to use, breadcrumbs to simulate the "rubbed look so often found on old drawings", and olive oil for causing some "interesting stains". He also gives tips on how to forge signatures.

Hebborn (1934-96), who faked works by Augustus John, Renoir, Corot and dozens of other masters that fooled collectors and curators worldwide, died in mysterious circumstances at his home in Rome. The city's coroner believes he was murdered.

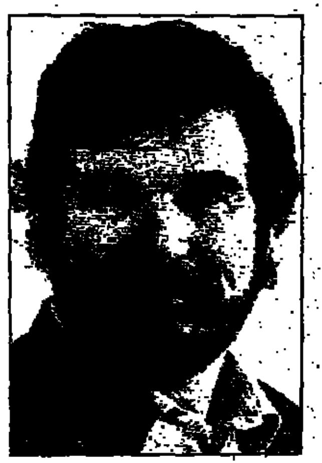
It is thought someone was trying to prevent him making further revelations about who was duped. However, his enemies were unable to stop *The Art Forger's Handbook* being published. It comes out next month to coincide with an exhibition in London of his forged drawings by Rembrandt, Boucher and Watteau.

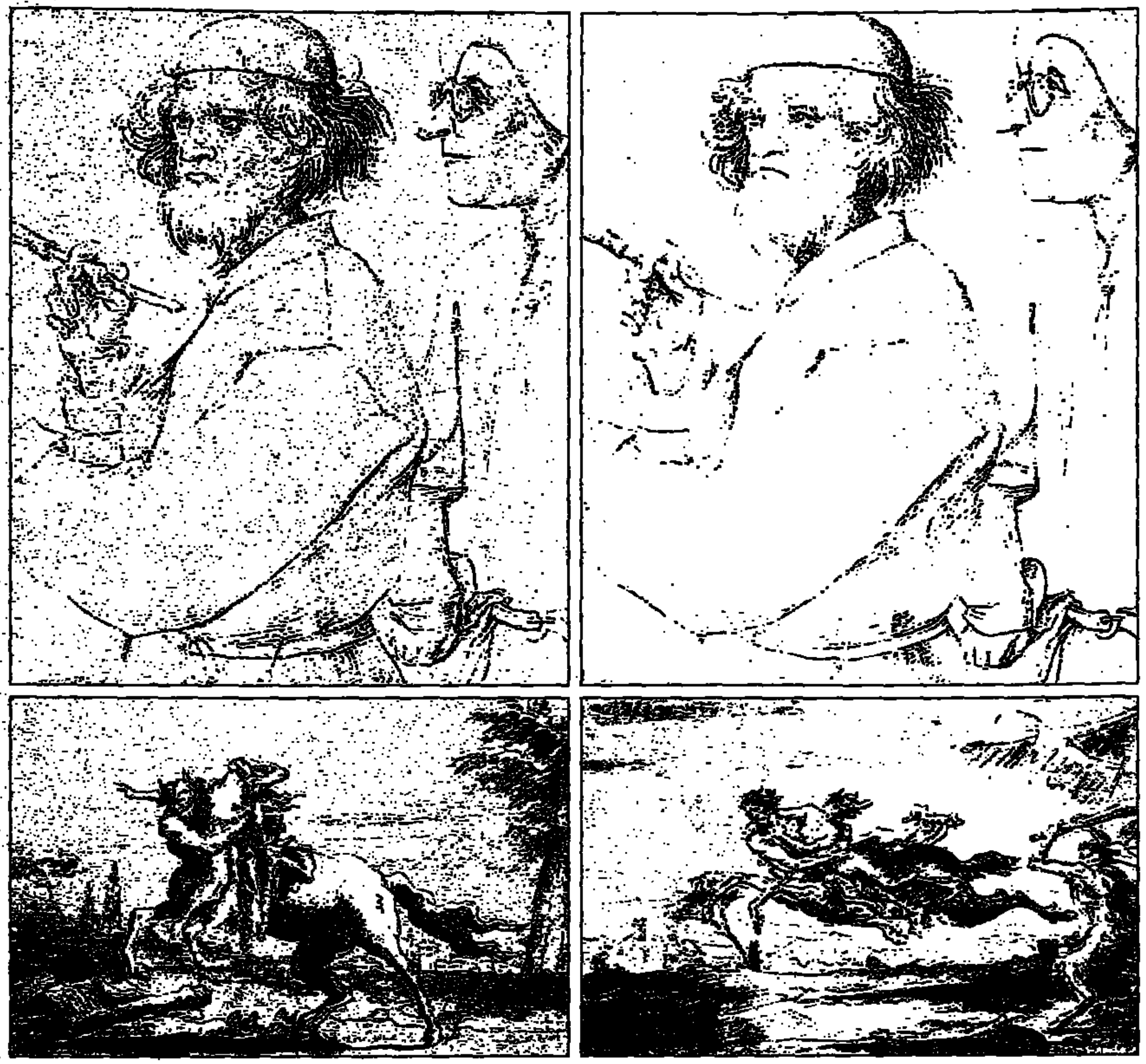
Hebborn, who was sent to borstal aged 8 for setting fire to his school, turned to crime when the art establishment rejected his work. He had won every prize at the Royal Academy School and seemed destined for a glittering career. Posing as a dealer from his home in Italy, he could explain the large number of Old Masters that had come his way. He deceived the art world for nearly 20 years.

In fact, he still does: no one is quite sure where all his works are. Examples entered eminent collections such as the British Museum and the National Gallery in Washington. To add to the confusion, Hebborn admitted that some of the tales described in his 1991 autobiography, *Drawn to Trouble*, were untrue.

What emerges from Hebborn's handbook is a profound knowledge of the Old Masters. He says an understanding of fakes sharpens the eye in looking at the real thing. On the choice of subject matter, he advised: "The general rule is that the less important the name of the artist, the more attractive must be the subject-matter ... Children are ... very saleable, as are views of Venice."

The Art Forger's Handbook is published by Cassell on February 4. The exhibition is at Archeus Fine Art, New Bond Street, from February 4 to 28.


Hebborn: forged more than 1,000 Old Masters


Spot the difference: Eric Hebborn's copy, top left, of Pieter Brueghel the Elder's *The Painter and the Connoisseur*. Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo's *Nessus Seizing Deianira*, bottom left, inspired Hebborn's adaptation, right

TIPS FROM A MASTER FAKER

☐ Use coffee, tea and chicory to tint papers.

☐ Rub breadcrumbs on chalk drawings to achieve a "rubbed look" found on old works.

☐ Create some "interesting stains" with olive oil.

☐ Collect a stock of period paper from salerooms, print and booksellers.

☐ For charcoal drawing, pack a tin can with willow twigs and slim boughs and put it into the "middle of a very big bonfire". Invite your friends round for a party. When they have gone home, retrieve the tin from the ashes and you have your charcoal.

☐ Repair worm-holes in paper so that the inside edges of the holes are not covered with tell-tale ink. The simplest way is to chew it. Lay the sheet on a marble slab and taking a well-chewed, perfectly soft piece of pulped paper — larger than the hole to be mended — place it over the hole. Cover with blotting paper and, with a wooden mallet, weld in the pulp. As time passes, the felt will harden. When the work is finished, it can be removed.

☐ Works in pastel are extremely fragile unless fixed. Skimmed milk can be used.

☐ The pens of the Old Masters were the quill and reed pen. These produce qualities difficult to emulate with any other kind of pen. A look at Rembrandt drawings is particularly instructive on this point. The quill is made from the pinion feathers of birds. First find an amenable bird. To cut a quill one requires a very sharp penknife or scalpel and a small cutting-board or slab.

☐ Half a potato rubbed over a grease-stain on paper will normally permit one to draw over the area with ink which would not otherwise take on it.

☐ Use period frames, especially if they have labels and inscriptions on the back to suggest a suitable provenance. But do your homework: there may, for instance, be a lot number chalked on the back that an auction house could look up in an old sale catalogue.

Case of faked Rodins leaves France with red-tinted face

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

A DEALER accused of flooding the art market with thousands of fake bronzes purporting to be the work of Rodin went on trial in France this week.

Guy Hain is appearing in Lure, western France, in what police say is one of the most important forgery cases since the war. It has caused deep embarrassment in France, where the suspect bronzes went unnoticed for years and passed through the hands of highly reputable dealers.

M Hain, nicknamed "the Duke of Burgundy" after the name of his former Paris shop, has been charged with counterfeiting works of art by manufacturing replicas of famous sculptures by Rodin and other artists and then selling them as originals. According to prosecutors, the scheme netted 100 million francs (£13 million).

Over a five-year investigation, police confiscated more than 3,000 pieces of sculpture which are now being held under seal in Lure. The statuary, weighing 20 tonnes, includes replicas of Rodin's sculpture of Balzac, *The Burghers of Calais*, *The Kiss* and his best-known work, *The Thinker*. There are also copies of other sculptures by Renoir, Maillol, Carpeaux and Barye.

The works are of different sizes, ranging from vast finished bronzes to incomplete plaster casts. None, according to police, can be classified as a genuine work of art by the artists. Some were made using Rodin's own plaster mouldings, but were manufactured more than 70 years after his death. Many of the latter-day copies are virtually indistinguishable from authentic Rodin bronzes. According to prosecutors, instead of labelling them as reproductions, M Hain and his former wife, Solange Jonckheere, sold them on as original Rodins.

Investigators say that fabricating each new bronze cost M Hain about £2,500. When sold as originals at the height of the art boom in the late 1980s, some of the alleged fakes fetched between £350,000 and £600,000 each. Several are believed to have been sold to wealthy private collectors in Japan.

The forgeries might have passed undetected but for the dogged sleuthing of Denis Vincenot, a Dijon policeman known as the "Maigret of Bronzes". Inspector Vincenot began looking into M Hain's activities in 1991, and he is the key witness in the trial.

If convicted, M Hain faces up to five years in prison. Two Paris auctioneers, Francis Faure and Bernard Rey, who allegedly sold "hundreds" of the sculptures, have been accused of complicity, along with Bernard Rudier, a descendant of the bronze-maker employed by Rodin.

Tracking such forgeries is notoriously difficult, since laws limiting the number of original editions of any sculpture were passed in France only in 1981. Most of the copied bronzes were allegedly cast in a foundry near Lure belonging to Mme Jonckheere.

Some were made by making new plaster casts from original bronzes, but investigators say others were created using original plaster mouldings obtained from the Rudier foundry. M Hain is accused of altering the stamp on the finished bronzes to read "Alexis Rudier", the name of Rodin's founder. Only a few of the bronzes seized by police carried the stamp "reproduction", as required under French law.

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Radio 1 tipped to wake up with the 'new John Peel'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MARK RADCLIFFE, the Radio 1 disc jockey, emerged yesterday as favourite to replace Chris Evans on the breakfast show, ahead of a rival from the commercial sector, Steve Penk.

Also tipped for Evans's job were the award-winning Russ 'n' Jono (Russ Williams and Jonathan Coleman) from Virgin Radio. They may prove too costly, however, as they are believed to have loyalty bonuses written into their contracts.

Radio 1 advertised yesterday for Evans's replacement on an electronic billboard in Piccadilly Circus. He resigned on Thursday after Matthew Bannister, the Radio 1 Controller, refused to let him work a four-day week.

There are few tried and tested presenters in his league, despite the huge growth in commerical radio this decade: there are now 178 local and three national commercial stations.

Radcliffe presents a Radio 1 show from 10pm to midnight on weekdays, with a broad mix of indie music and poetry. Steve Penk joined the London station Capital FM last September to present the mid-morning show. He is being groomed as the eventual successor to the station's veteran breakfast host, Chris Tarrant.

Like Radcliffe, Penk is a Mancunian who cut his broadcasting teeth by working for the independent station Piccadilly. He was signed by Capital for an estimated £150,000 a year after a bidding contest with another London station, Heart.

One of Penk's most notorious pranks on Piccadilly was "spousal arousal", in which women telephoned their husbands at work and pleaded with them to return home for sex. The calls were broadcast live and ended with Penk butting in with the words "Surprise, surprise!"

Radcliffe emerged from the "Madchester" music scene in the 1980s and was a producer at Piccadilly. His stint as presenter of *The White Room*, a critically acclaimed Channel 4 music programme, strengthened his credibility in the music business, where he is known as "the new John Peel".

Radcliffe: he may not fit show's *madcap image*

Many in the industry feel, however, that he would not fit the madcap style common to breakfast shows.

News of Evans's departure was welcomed by some senior BBC executives, who had been unhappy about his bad language and risqué pranks during the past two years. A source said: "Chris Evans has served his purpose. When Radio 1 was losing millions of listeners and sacking its older DJs, Matthew [Bannister] needed him to diffuse pressure he was put under by the BBC governors and to publicise the fact that Radio 1 was no longer naff. He was the hook around which they repositioned the public image of the station."

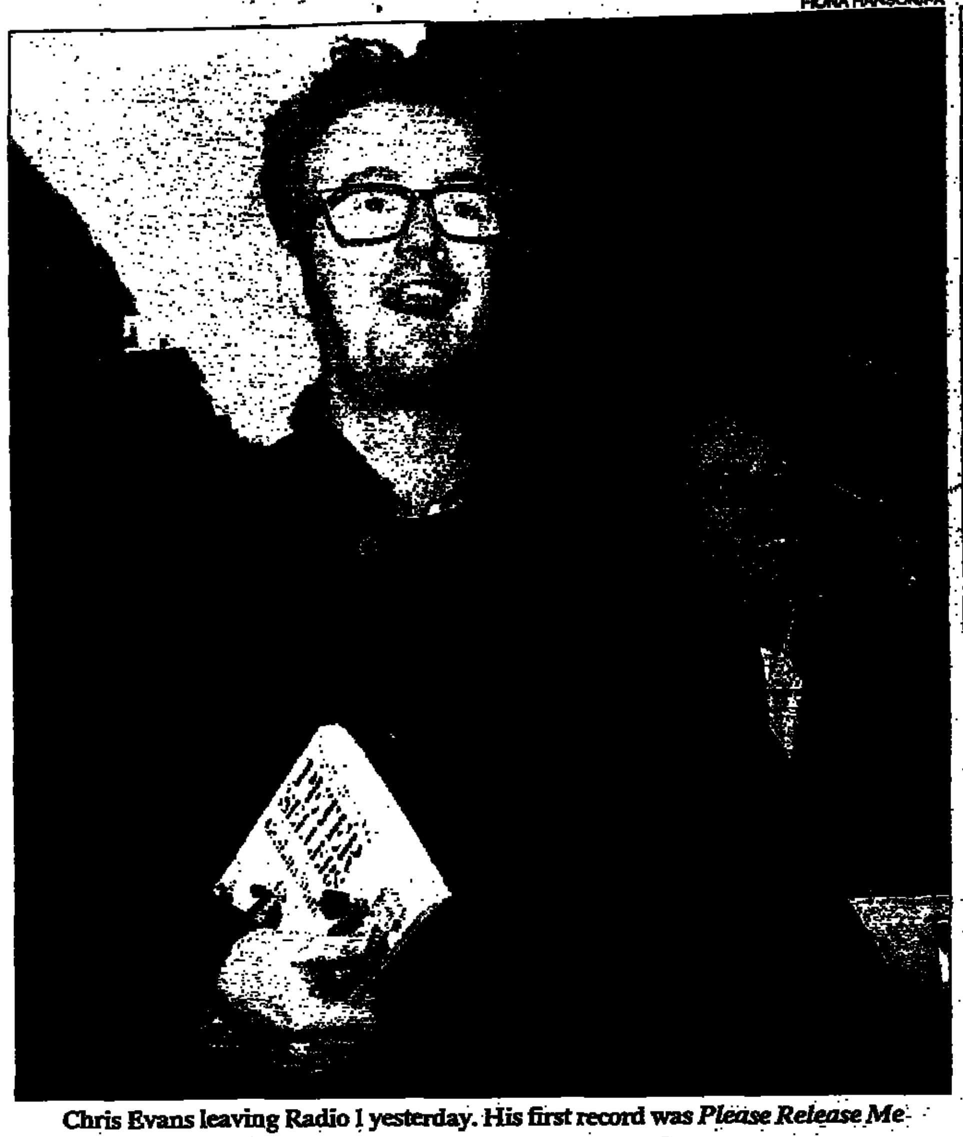
Evans leaves on March 27. Mr Bannister's advertisement in Piccadilly read: "Wanted: Radio 1 breakfast show disc jockey. Must work five days a week. Ginger hair an advantage. Apply Radio 1."

Evans, who opened his show yesterday with *Please Release Me*, took the opportunity to advertise himself and his team: "If somebody wants to offer us a job Monday to *Thursday we'd love to do it*," he said.

He is unlikely to be short of work for long. Virgin Radio and Talk Radio are keen to hire him. Also, Evans's company, Ginger Productions, is understood to be negotiating with Channel 4 to produce his television show, *TFI Friday*, three nights a week.

Ginger Productions is also rumoured to be lobbying hard for the contract to make Channel 4's *Big Breakfast*, which has lost viewers since Evans quit as a presenter.

FIONA HANSON/PA



Chris Evans leaving Radio 1 yesterday. His first record was *Please Release Me*

File on Duke of York left in stolen naval car

BY DANIEL McGRORY

CONFIDENTIAL records about the Royal Navy's plan to promote the Duke of York before he leaves the service have been found by police after they were stolen from an Admiral's chauffeur-driven car.

The Rover 820 was taken after the navy driver left the engine running while he went into a shop at Gosport, Hampshire, to buy a newspaper. On the front seat was a briefcase containing more than 200 staff records, including recommendations about the Duke's suitability for promotion, and remarks by senior figures about his character.

Defence officials admitted yesterday to being deeply embarrassed by the incident, which echoed the theft in 1990 of the Gulf War Allies' secret battle plan to defeat Saddam Hussein, when a wing commander left his vehicle to visit a car showroom.

A senior navy source said: "While there was nothing top secret, there was information which in the wrong hands would have caused a lot of very red faces in Whitehall."

The briefcase was found by a police dog, some distance from the car, which had been abandoned yards away in the town centre. The Navy leading hand who mislaid his vehicle now faces a court martial. The Ministry of Defence said: "We are just grateful to have got everything back intact."

The vehicle taken in Gosport was used by Vice-Admiral John Brigstocke, who is Flag Officer Surface Flotilla and in charge of the Navy's 100 surface vessels. It is understood Admiral Brigstocke had the confidential staff reports because he sits on promotion boards.

The Duke's report will say whether officers thought he had the right attributes for promotion from lieutenant-commander to commander and the reasons why he was suitable or not.

The Duke started in a new post af the Ministry of Defence this week after announcing that he intended to leave the Navy in 1999 after completing 20 years' service. Navy sources said last night that the Duke was eligible for promotion up until the moment he handed in his written resignation.

Detention for attacker of DPP's husband

BY ADRIAN LEE

A TEENAGER who stabbed and almost killed the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions was sent to a young offenders' institution for eight years yesterday. A judge said he had a duty to impose a stern sentence to deter those who routinely carried knives.

The youth, now aged 17, pushed the blade deep into the stomach of John Mills, whose wife, Barbara, is the DPP, severing an artery and piercing his liver. Only prompt action by two policemen saved his life and Mr Mills, 58, a businessman, has since made a full recovery.

Judge Pontius said Mr Mills had done nothing to attract the attention of the youth, who cannot be named, before the attack in May 1995 in a north London street. He was stabbed with a butterfly knife, a double-bladed martial arts weapon.

The judge condemned the teenager, who has a previous conviction of wounding and robbery, for brazening out a lengthy trial. He said his claims of remorse rang hollow. "It seems you are someone who is all too ready to use violence on others."

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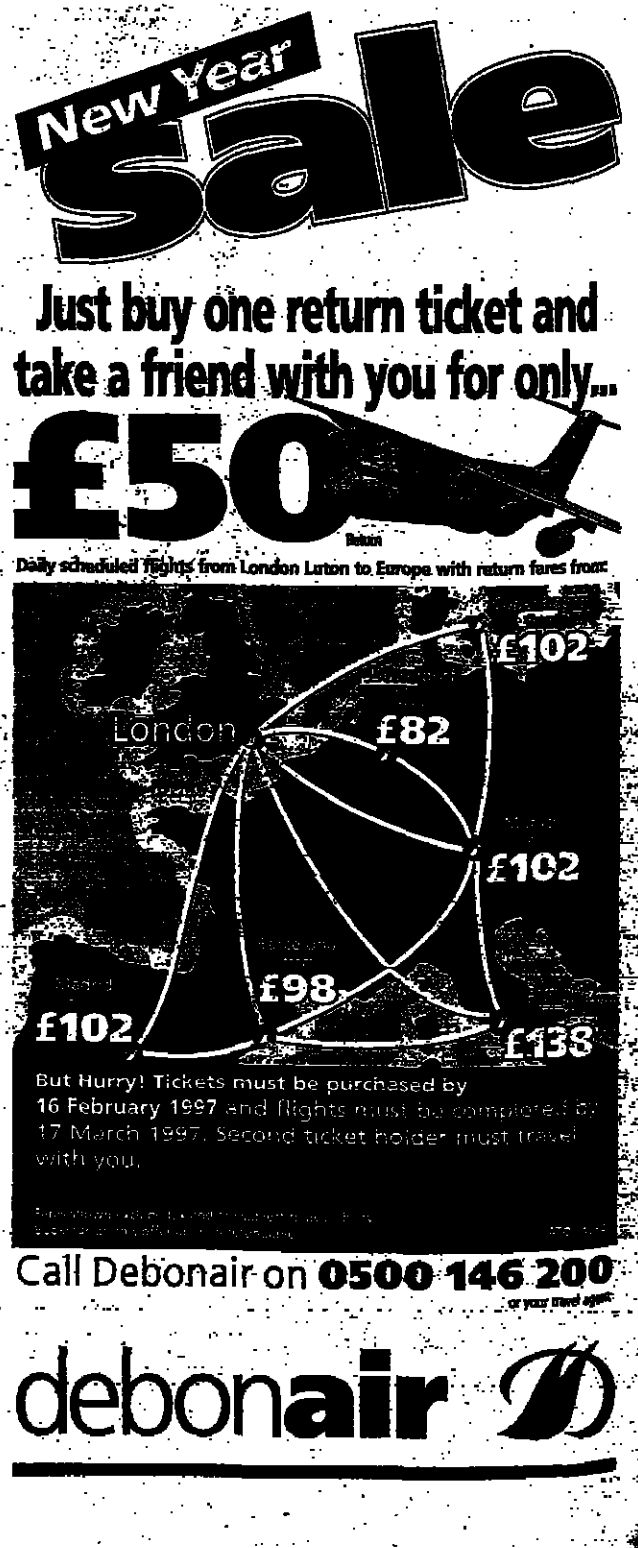

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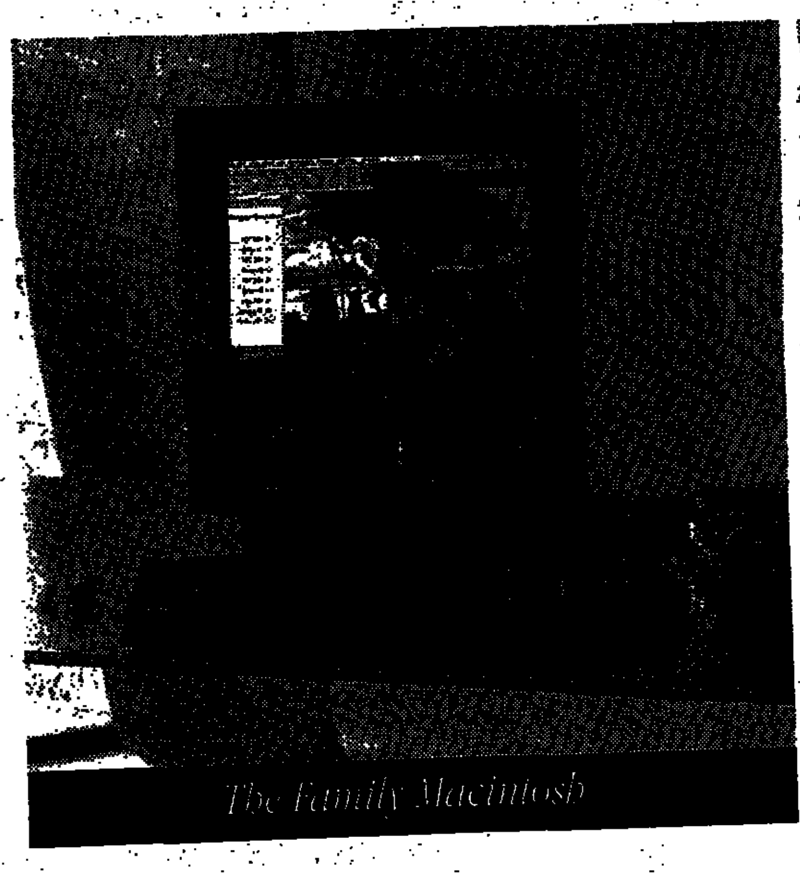
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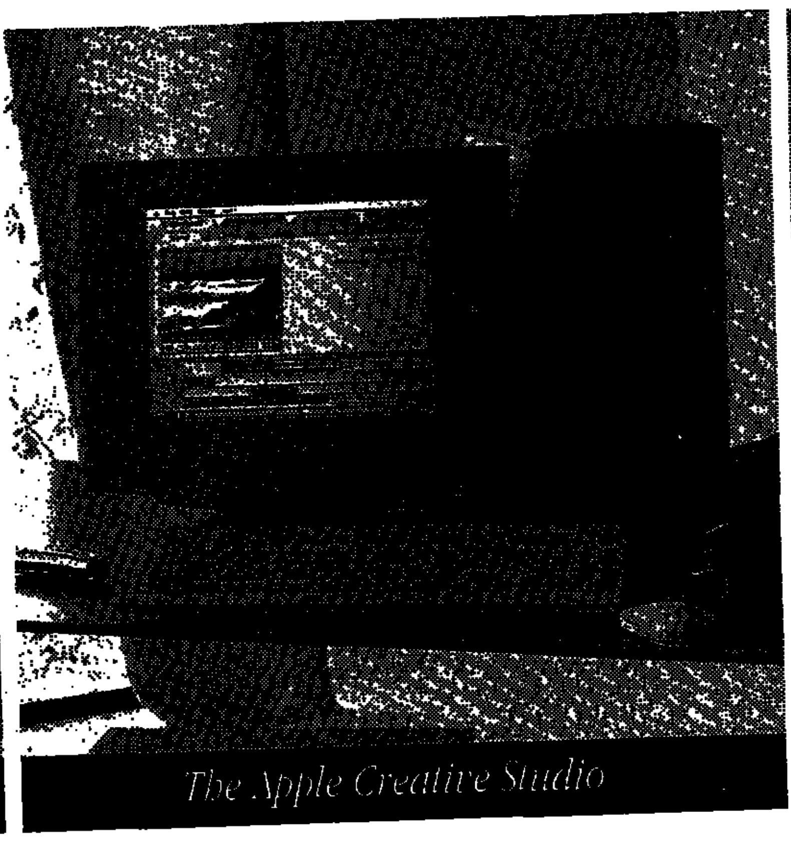
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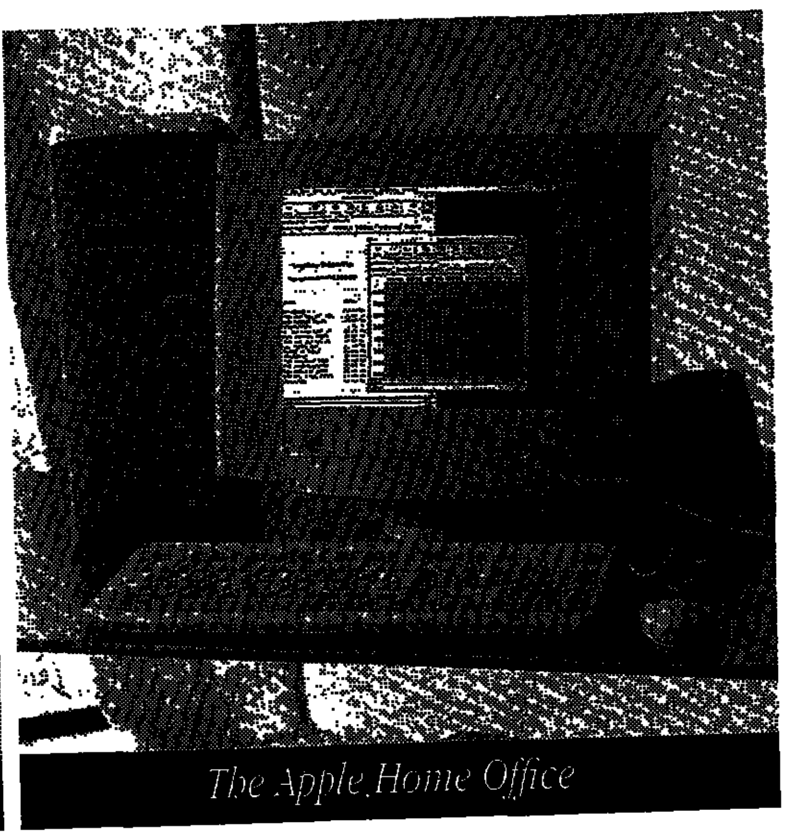
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Council ruffles feathers in battle of Trafalgar Square

By Michael Hornsby

Trafalgar Square's sole licensed birdseed vendor may have his permit rescinded by the council

AN ATTEMPT to evict Trafalgar Square's pigeons by starving them into submission was set in train yesterday by Westminster City Council, which says that the birds are damaging buildings and spreading disease.

However, the pampered fowl have been defended by the London Tourist Board and the Department of National Heritage, which is responsible for the square. They argue that pigeons are as much part of the scenery as Nelson's Column.

The council's environment sub-committee has voted to ask the Heritage Department to rescind the licence of the square's one authorised birdseed seller. The council also wants the square to be included in a general ban on pigeon feeding throughout the borough. It is to ask the Home Office for permission to pass a bylaw to that effect.

Jonathan Lord, the chairman of the sub-committee, said: "We know the birds are popular with visitors, but we receive a steady stream of complaints from residents. At least 10 per cent of the birds carry diseases such as salmonella and tuberculosis. Their acidic droppings damage buildings and statues. More than a ton is removed every year from Nelson's Column alone. We would like a bylaw banning the feeding of pigeons in public spaces which would be enforced with fines of, say, £40 to £50 for a first offence. The aim would be to reduce the birds' numbers, not to get rid of them.

"The main target would be the persistent offenders, the little old ladies who are out every day with bags of breadcrumbs, which they often dump still half-full, creating a food supply for rats."

Louise Wood, of the tourist board, said visitors to London would be hugely disappointed if bird feeding were stopped. She said: "Trafalgar Square must be one of the most photographed sites in the world and tourists come expecting to feed the pigeons."

The Heritage Department said it had no plans to revoke the licence of the seed vendor, which has two more years to run before it comes up for review. "Trafalgar Square is a landmark site, a major tourist attraction, and the pigeons are part of it," a spokeswoman said. "It is better to encourage people to feed the birds with seed than with bits of hamburger and sandwiches." The department spends £100,000 a year hosing down the square.

Bernard Rayner, the current holder of the seed vendor's licence, did not look like a man whose job was under threat yesterday. "My family have been selling seeds here for 50 years. The pigeons are part of our heritage," he said. Mr Rayner, who charges 25p for a teacup-sized pot of birdseed, was coy about how much he made each year, but said it afforded a comfortable living.

After posing for a photograph with a pigeon on his head, Scott Means, a computer specialist from Florida on holiday in London with his wife and daughter, said: "It is all part of the appeal of the place. I would be very upset if I could not feed the birds.". But Bernd Schmidt, a hygiene-conscious German student, said he could do without the birds. "Very dirty," he said, wrinkling his nose.

GILL ALLEN

The pigeons' backers include the London Tourist Board, which says visitors expect to feed the birds

NEWS IN BRIEF

Barking fine for couple with six dogs

A couple whose six barking dogs annoyed neighbours for 18 months were ordered to pay fines and costs of £3,790 by magistrates at Wigan, Greater Manchester. Six residents living near David Mann and Kelly Lomas in Leigh contacted the local council complaining that the noise of the border collies made it impossible to read, watch television or sleep. The couple have since moved away.

Girl raped on way to school

A 15-year-old girl was raped at knifepoint inside a derelict garage after stopping for a cigarette on her way to school. She had walked a few yards off the footpath leading to her school in Framlingham, Suffolk, when she was confronted by a man wearing a balaclava. He ran off towards the town centre after the attack and the girl then managed to alert teachers.

Prison for charity swindler

A woman who stole thousands of pounds from the national cot death charity she launched was jailed for 11 months yesterday by Liverpool Crown Court. Susan Howe, 43, of Formby, Merseyside, denied 19 charges of stealing a total of £36,872 from the Cot Death Society, but was found guilty of 15 of them at her trial last month. She launched the charity in 1991 after a friend's child died.

Spector waits for decision

Judgment was reserved yesterday in a High Court action over the rights to the pop song *To Know Him is to Love Him*. The 1950s hit was written by Phil Spector, 57, who is fighting the British-based Bourne Music Ltd for return of the rights. He is also claiming hundreds of thousands of pounds in royalties. Mr Justice Ferris did not say when he would give his ruling.

BBC man changes channel

The leading BBC foreign correspondent, Tim Sebastian, is leaving to become diplomatic editor of Channel 5 News. Mr Sebastian, who has worked in Moscow, Washington and Eastern Europe for the corporation and currently presents *Newsdesk*, the BBC World channel's morning news show, will start his new job next month.

Eurostar smuggler in court

A French law student, who was paid £600 to smuggle two kilograms of heroin, worth £165,000, through the Channel Tunnel, was sent to a young offender institution for five years. Southwark Crown Court was told that Virginia Gazel, 19, from Beauvais, Paris, was caught by a routine customs check last October. She pleaded guilty.

Watchman jailed over fire

A security guard who caused a £1.5 million fire at a warehouse in Stockton-on-Tees was jailed for 27 months by Teesside Crown Court. Philip Green, 28, of Middlesbrough, used his cigarette lighter to look around after his torch failed. He fell and started fires in two places. He admitted reckless arson.

Gilbey wins libel damages

James Gilbey, left, a friend of Diana, Princess of Wales, accepted undisclosed libel damages over an article in the *Independent on Sunday* last August which gave the false impression that he had been trying to sell his story to the media. Newspaper Publishing and Peter Wilby, former Editor, said that they had confused Mr Gilbey with someone else.

Deaths rise in cold spell

The cold weather led to a big increase in the number of deaths registered in England and Wales. Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed there were 19,553 deaths during the week ending January 10, nearly 6,000 above the average for this time of year. A week earlier the figure was 18,616.

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	Gatwick	Ibiza	30 Aug	14	28138	RIALTO	3T / SC	Summer Sun	£351	£60	£291	£262
	Gatwick	Ibiza	12 May	7	28140	SUN SEAVIEW COUNTRY CLUB	4T / HB	Summer Sun	£329	£60	£269	£243
	Gatwick	Minorca	10 May	14	28211	VISTA BLANES	3S / SC	Skytours	£260	£60	£200	£180
	Gatwick	Turkey	9 Jul	14	29304	DUYGULU	3T / BB	Turkey	£349	£60	£289	£261
	Luton	Algarve	4 May	7	28473	SOLMONTE	3S / SC	Skytours	£223	£60	£163	£147
	Luton	Costa De Almeria	5 Jun	7	28338	MEDITTERRANEO PARK	3T / HB	Summer Sun	£327	£60	£267	£241
	Luton	Rhodes	28 May	7	29118	BEL MARE	BB	Greece	£305	£60	£245	£221
	Stansted	Costa Dorada	17 Jun	7	28275	PLAYA PARK	3S / HB	Skytours	£319	£60	£259	£234
	Stansted	Gran Canaria	26 May	14	28416	GREEN SEA	3T / SC	Summer Sun	£289	£50	£239	£216
	Stansted	Majorca	15 Jun	14	28031	FIESTA APARTHOTEL COMPLEX	3T / SC	Summer Sun	£320	£60	£260	£234
20% OR ABOVE	Birmingham	Tenerife	13 Jul	14	28384	TEIDEMAR	3T / SC	Summer Sun	£364	£55	£309	£279
	Bristol	Costa Dorada	10 Jun	14	28273	AVENIDA PARK	3T / HB	Summer Sun	£389	£60	£329	£297
	Cardiff	Costa Del Sol	4 May	14	28355	BALI	2T / HB	Summer Sun	£400	£60	£340	£306
	East Midlands	Ibiza	28 Jul	7	28140	S ESTANYOL	3S / BB	Skytours	£319	£50	£269	£243
	East Midlands	Turkey	14 May	14	29304	MONTABELLO	3T / RO	Summer Sun	£369	£60	£309	£279
	Gatwick	Costa Blanca	5 Jun	7	28312	RIO PARK	2T / HB	Summer Sun	£358	£60	£298	£269
	Gatwick	Costa Brava	15 Jul	14	28255	THALASSA	3T / SC	Summer Sun	£369	£60	£309	£279
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	Gatwick	Turkey	1 Jul	14	29340	KALYAN	2T / BB	Turkey	£365	£60	£305	£275
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	Luton	Fuerteventura	3 Jun	14	28453	CALETA GARDENS	4T / SC	Summer Sun	£299	£50	£249	£225
	Luton	Rhodes	21 May	14	29118	RODOS PALACE	5T / SC	Summer Sun	£369	£50	£319	£288
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Threat of violence returns to Hebron hours after pullout

From Christopher Walker in Hebron

ISRAEL *withdrew its troops* from most of Hebron at dawn yesterday, but within hours the signs of conflict had returned.

A curfew was clamped on Palestinians living near the remaining Jewish settlers and Arabs chanted the praises of Yihye Ayyash, the "master of the suicide bomb".

As leaders of the 450 settlers rent their clothes in grief for the loss of part of their homeland to *hablim* (terrorists), the 100,000 Arabs freed from military occupation after 30 years set off fireworks and toured cells in the British-built military headquarters where many had been *imprisoned.*

Despite the portraits of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, now displayed at roadsides, many of the newly liberated Hebronites *did little to disguise the* fact that their true loyalties lay with Hamas, the militant Islamic group which opposed the deal that gave them freedom.

In the shadow of the imposing Tegart Fort (named after a British Mandate security chief, Charles Tegart) which had been Israeli military headquarters until its transfer at 6.10am, Palestinian policemen looked on benignly as chants in memory of Ayyash ("The Engineer"), the murdered Hamas bomb-maker, filled the air.

Had the Jewish settlers living in heavily fortified buildings in the heart of the city below been present, their paranoia about the future would have been intensified. "Ayyash, Ayyash, we will be joining you in paradise," sang *an impromptu choir of young* men with unsmiling eyes and women in Islamic head*scarves, more common* in Hebron than elsewhere in the West Bank. "The Israeli occu*piers should never forget:* we are all Ayyash."

Even the most respectable of *those who had come to the* abandoned symbol of foreign rule, now sporting a Palestin*ian flag on its 80ft antenna,* had stories to tell of hardships under the Israeli occupiers who seized control from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Dr Anwan Maswadeh, a *Palestinian GP, had brought* Reema, his nine-year-old daughter, to show her the cells where he spent one *and a half* years for membership of Fatah, Mr Arafat's PLO faction. "When I last came here I was blindfolded and in handcuffs. Now I am a free man, arriving in the sunshine with my daughter," the doctor said. "But my optimism is tempered because the settlers are still among us. I am afraid there will be more trouble."

It was only a few minutes' drive to the Jewish cemetery on the opposite hillside where settlers were conducting their ceremony of mourning, with Dov Lior, a prominent rabbi, cutting each of their shirts with scissors before they tore them in a grieving ritual.

The route took us through the market where the curfew *was imposed after scores of* Palestinians armed with stones and bottles began to *pelt some of the 2,500 Israeli* troops left to guard the settlers. Tempers flared as the settlers were left free to walk at will.

As Rabbi Lior led the nodding heads in reciting *Psalm* 142, many of the Jews were red-eyed from recent tears. Watching the men grieving was Geula Cohen, a retired right-wing politician and onetime radio operator for Jewish underground terrorists who *fought the British. Her emotions* were heightened by the knowledge that her son is one *of the members of the Cabinet* who backed Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, in pushing through the pullout decision.

"It is a day of shame for Netanyahu, who caved in to US pressure," Mrs Cohen said. She pointed to the large swath of the City of the Patriarchs now under Palestinian control. "*It is the beginning* of a Palestinian state. I am sure we [the Israelis] will *come again and free it again,* but only in a very bloody war."

A rabbi helps a *Hebron settler to tear his shirt in ritual* mourning over the handover of the city to Palestinian rule

MIKE WILBUR / REUTER

Riot police bar a lone protester's way to the Myongdong cathedral yesterday

Seoul police ring cathedral

From Reuter in Seoul

SOUTH KOREAN police *yesterday tightened a security* noose around a Seoul cathedral where a strike leader was hiding from arrest, and the ruling party scorned an offer by the fugitive for a televised debate.

Special force officers trained in unarmed combat guarded approaches to Myongdong cathedral, while police checked *cars* approaching the building.

The "grabbers" — hardened *by years of street fighting* — are deployed during riots to rush into crowds and make arrests. South Korea's Roman Catholic cardinal appealed to President Kim to "resolve the situation with dialogue", a presidential spokesman said.

Kwon Young Kil, the strike leader and president of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, challenged Lee Hong Koo, the chairman of the New Korean Party, to a *debate over the* new labour law that has sparked more than three *weeks of stoppages.* Mr Kwon called on the party chairman personally to square off with him on camera. He also demanded that the Government must guarantee his safety from arrest.

The New Korea Party rejected the offer, on the ground that Mr Kwon was a fugitive, and called on unions to put forward more suitable candidates. "There cannot be guarantees of safety for people *who have legal problems,*" the party said. The strikes were wound down last night and there were *just* pockets of worker resistance.

Spain retreats on Rock passports

Madrid: Spain denied yesterday that it is soon to stop recognising passports issued *in Gibraltar* (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The announcement was an attempt to close a growing rift between Spain and Britain over the Rock.

The prospect of the Spanish treating as obsolete a 1960 Anglo-Spanish visa-waiver treaty, under which Gibraltari*ans acquired* the right to travel freely to Spain, had sent shock waves through the Rock this week. Yesterday Madrid climbed down, saying the Government was "only studying the possibility *of changes to the treaty*". Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Gibraltar next week and hold talks with Abel Matutes, his Spanish counterpart.

Timor murder plot 'foiled'

Sydney: Supporters of Bishop Carlos Belo, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, foiled a plot to assassinate him in Dili, the capital of East Timor, by beating to death an Indonesian soldier on Christmas Eve, Hilton Deakin, the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, said. The news was given in a fax from a prominent East Timor Roman Catholic. Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 *and made* it their 27th province in 1976. The move has not been recognised by the United Nations. *(Reuter)*

Serb politician's suicide bid

Pale: *Doctors battled to save the* former Bosnian Serb Vice-President, Nikola Koljevic, who was in a coma yesterday after shooting himself in the head in a suicide attempt, political sources *said. Mr Koljevic, 60, a Shakespeare scholar* and former Sarajevo University professor, shot himself in his office in the seat of the Serb republic's Government at Pale. Dense fog prevented doctors from *flying Mr Koljevic* to Belgrade immediately after the shooting. *(Reuter)*

Maputo backs game park

Maputo: Mozambique has granted final approval for a private game reserve which the US-based company behind the project claims is the largest in the world. The scheme encompasses 580,000 acres in the Maputuland region of southern Mozambique, Blanchard Mozambique Enterprises said. US *millionaire James Blanchard presented* an outline of the project to President Chissano in 1995. *(Reuter)*

Montenegrin minister dies

Belgrade: Janko Jeknic, Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, died in a road accident. He was 46. Mr Jeknic's car collided with a bus outside the capital, Podgorica. He had served as head of protocol and consul for economic affairs in the Yugoslav consulate in Milan, Italy, before becoming Foreign Minister. *(Reuter)*

Reeve back in hospital

New York: The wheelchair-bound actor Christopher Reeve was *admitted to hospital with a blood clot behind his knee* (Quentin Letts writes). Mr Reeve, the former *Superman* star disabled in a horseriding accident two years ago, is likely to be kept under observation *for a few days* before going home.

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Gingrich remains defiant in face of $300,000 penalty

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

LAWYERS agreed last night that Newt Gingrich should be ordered to pay a penalty of $300,000 (£180,000) after the special counsel investigating ethics charges against the House Speaker released a highly condemnatory report.

The size of the recommended fine is likely to dramatise for Americans the serious nature of Mr Gingrich's admitted ethics violations. But it will not prompt him to resign, as many Democrats had hoped.

James Cole, who recommended a hefty fine, a reprimand and a federal investigation, agreed tentatively with lawyers representing Mr Gingrich that he should pay $300,000 and be admonished in writing by his colleagues when the House votes on the issue next week.

The large financial penalty has been designed to reimburse the ethics committee for extra work done as a result of inaccurate statements submitted under the Speaker's name.

The fine comes to nearly twice the Speaker's annual salary of $171,500, and is much higher than Mr Gingrich and his colleagues had expected. If the House votes to sanction the penalty against Mr Gingrich on Tuesday, he will be the first Speaker ever disciplined by his peers. Only two weeks ago he became the first Republican re-elected to the office in 68 years.

Republicans said that the agreement between the lawyers had been reached during a private session of the House ethics committee yesterday in which members had reviewed the 200-page document, the culmination of a year-long inquiry by Mr Cole.

The report, the critical element in the committee's investigation of whether Mr Gingrich had misused charitable donations for political purposes, was distributed to all 435 members of the House last night as public hearings into the matter opened.

Part of the document was said to recommend a full inquiry by the Justice Department on the apparent use of charitable contributions for partisan political purposes. Last night Republicans were playing down the size of the penalty and privately were hoping that the impending inauguration of President Clinton would overshadow any political damage before the Tuesday vote.

The Democrats had been dealt a public relations disaster from their own ranks earlier in the week when Jim McDermott, the leading Democrat on the ethics committee, was forced to resign from the inquiry. Mr McDermott was accused by his opponents of deliberately leaking an illegally recorded tape involving Mr Gingrich to several leading American newspapers and the FBI announced an immediate investigation. His resignation deflected the worst embarrassments of the Gingrich affair and Republicans were able both to truncate the public hearings and to ensure that Mr Cole's evidence was kept to a minimum.

Nevertheless, as speculation increased on Capitol Hill last night in advance of the report's release, Mr Gingrich's allies were hoping that the special counsel had gone no further in his comments than a statement of violation issued last month, which said that Mr Gingrich should have taken legal advice about the use of tax-exempt funds.

It cited conflicting remarks by him about whether his political action committee had received money from non-profit groups, whether it was involved in financing a college course he was teaching and whether the course had partisan objectives.

Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the ethics case, Mr Gingrich was left severely wounded by the process. A new cadre of ambitious Republicans is already emerging to fill the vacuum left by the mastermind of the Republican revolution.

American rocket explodes in fireball

From Ian Brodie in Washington

A DELTA-2 rocket exploded spectacularly on take-off from Cape Canaveral yesterday. A shower of fireballs rained down on the space centre, and smoke was still billowing from the launch-pad half an hour later. The rocket, built by McDonnell Douglas Corporation, was carrying a global positioning satellite worth $55 million (£34 million) into orbit for the US Air Force.

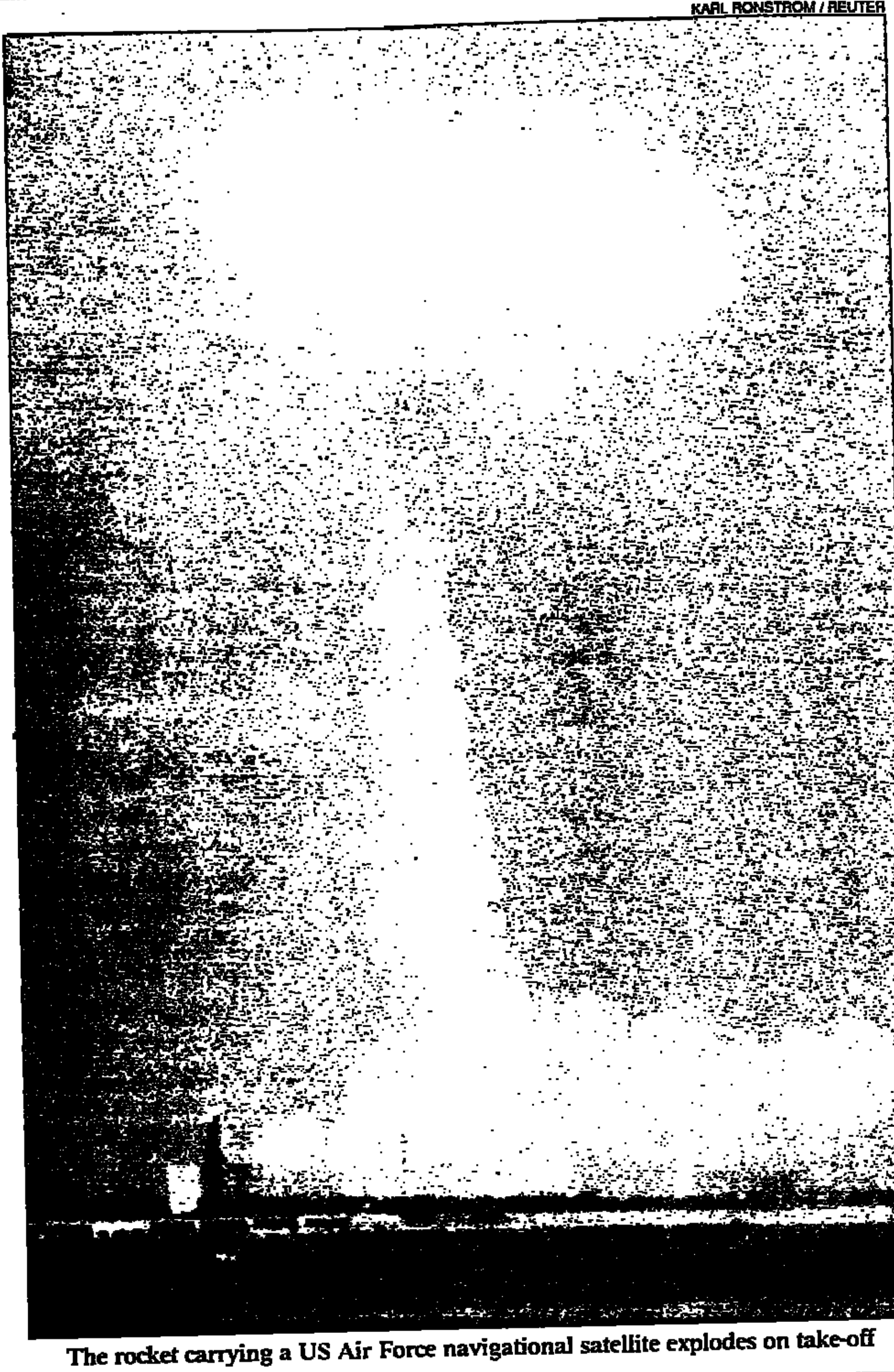
Larry McCracken, a spokesman for McDonnell Douglas, said the explosion of the three-stage rocket occurred less than four seconds into the flight and even before the rocket had cleared the tower to which it had been tethered for the launch.

Karl Ronstrom, a photographer who was taking pictures of the launch from a distance of two miles, said that after the main explosion he heard four or more minor explosions, along with the smoke and fireballs.

The Air Force had no immediate explanation for the explosion, but ordered an investigation. No one was hurt. The launch had been delayed from Thursday because of high winds.

The Delta is regarded as the world's most reliable rocket. It has been in use since 1960, and yesterday's launch was the 241st, of which fewer than ten have failed to reach orbit. The last one to explode was in May, 1986.

KARL RONSTROM / REUTER



The rocket carrying a US Air Force navigational satellite explodes on take-off

Fujimori hints at talks on prisoners

From Gabriella Gamini South America Correspondent

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI of Peru yesterday indicated that he is prepared to discuss the Tupac Amaru rebels' demand for the release of hundreds of their imprisoned comrades.

Señor Fujimori told a Japanese television network that the subject may be among issues to be discussed in formal talks that are due to start next week. However, the President maintained his characteristic tough line and said the "Government cannot approve such a liberation".

The rebels released last night one hostage from the Lima residence of the Japanese Ambassador, the first to be freed since the beginning of the year. He was Luis Valencia Gerano, a former chief of Peru's anti-terrorist police. Seventy-three hostages remain in captivity.

The rebels have agreed to participate in talks with the Government only if the release of fellow guerrillas was on the agenda. Western diplomats in Lima said the talks would be held in a church in the capital.

Señor Fujimori is under growing pressure to find a solution to the hostage crisis. He has so far resisted the possibility of a commando raid to free the hostages because Japan vociferously opposes a military plan. Among the hostages are Morihisa Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador, and at least 20 Japanese executives.

On Thursday, Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the rebels' leader, kept up the war of nerves with Señor Fujimori by saying that he would not take part in talks until the Government allows imprisoned rebels to begin receiving visits again. Visits to high-security prisons had been stopped since December 17 when the Tupac Amaru took their hostages. The Red Cross has also been barred from the prisons. It remained unclear whether the demand by Señor Cerpa had been met.

Last night there were indications that Canada was willing to act as go-between, with Ottawa prepared to guarantee the safe transit of the rebels out of the country.

Bill Cosby and his wife Camille mourn their son, Ennis, right, in New York yesterday

Doubts grow over Cosby murder witness

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

POLICE faced a setback in their investigation into the murder of Bill Cosby's son yesterday as doubts arose over the credibility of their only witness.

A white woman in a mini-skirt and short fur coat who said she saw Ennis Cosby, 27, shot dead appeared to change her story during day-long questioning by detectives.

The only son of the much loved comedian had pulled off a freeway in a prosperous and relatively safe West Los Angeles neighbourhood to change a flat tyre on his Mercedes sports car when he was shot once in the head early on Thursday.

Protest calls to CNN television after it broadcast pictures of his body beside the car in a pool of blood prompted an on-air apology. But television crews continued to besiege the Cosby family homes in New York and Los Angeles.

Police said that robbery was the most likely motive for the killing, even though nothing appeared to have been taken from the $130,000 (£77,000) car. The mystery deepened with reports that when his tyre burst at 1.15am, Cosby was on his way to visit the woman who later claimed to have witnessed his murder.

He contacted her by cellphone and asked her to drive out and help by shining her headlights while he changed the tyre, CBS reported. The station said that the woman, 40, changed her account during interviews with detectives, saying she drove away on seeing a white man approach Mr Cosby and returned to find him dead. She is said to work in the entertainment business and to have met Mr Cosby only days earlier.

The young man had a reputation for being unaffected by his father's huge wealth and fame. He was 6ft 3in and was studying for a master's degree in remedial education. The most eloquent tribute to him came from his father: "He was my hero".

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Norwegian nears pole

THE Norwegian explorer, Boerge Ousland, was last night just a few miles short of completing his epic journey across the Antarctic — alone, unaided and on foot (Roger Maynard writes).

Although he experienced whiteout conditions yesterday morning, 25 miles southwest of his target — New Zealand's Scott Base — he resumed his 1,675-mile journey in the afternoon. Staff at Scott Base forecast that he would reach there later today.

Some of the 45 people at the base were set to escort him on the home stretch. "A message has been relayed to us that the first thing he wants is a cup of tea," said Julian Tangaere, New Zealand's Scott Base leader, who has been tracking Mr Ousland's progress.

This is Mr Ousland's second attempt to cross Antarctica on foot. His last attempt failed when he suffered from frostbite. This time his main rival, the British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, gave up on December 12 after suffering from kidney stones.

Mr Ousland, 34, who set out more than two months ago, is towing a sledge with about 400lb of supplies.

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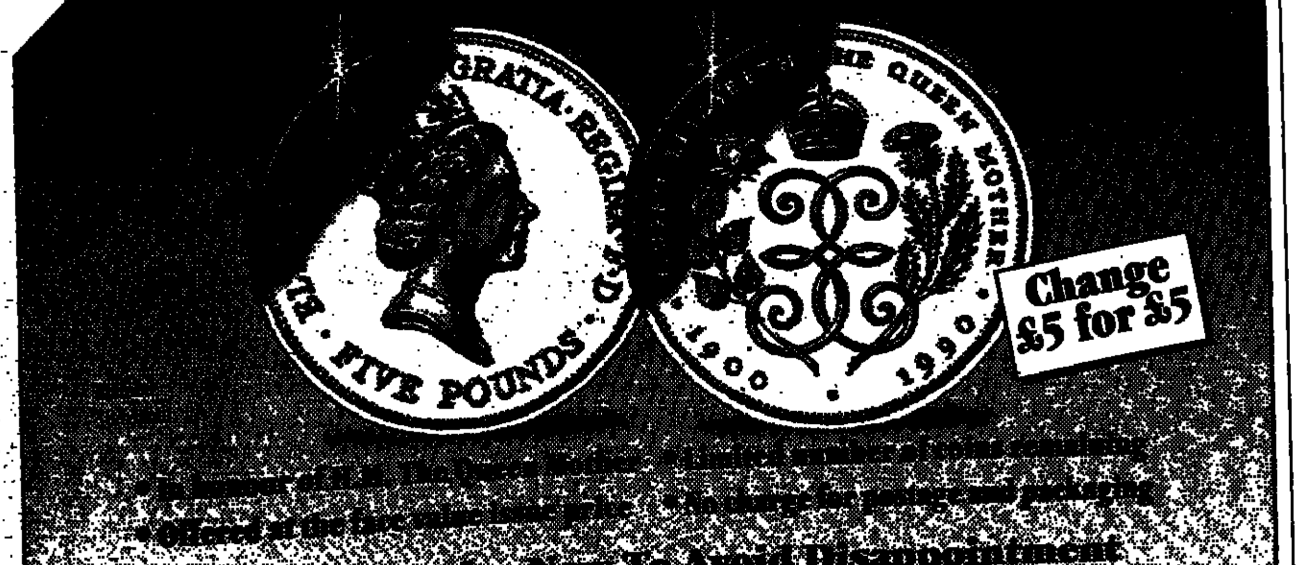

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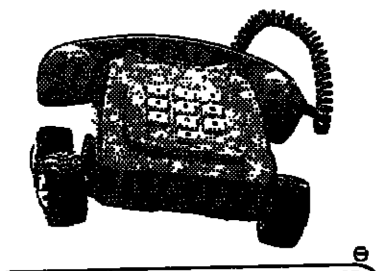

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Italian aristocrat of the art world battered to death

By Richard Owen

POLICE in Florence said yesterday they were baffled by the murder of an aristocratic art and antiques expert who was found battered to death in his elegant 14th-century palazzo.

Count Alvise di Robilant, 72, worked for Sotheby's for many years and was widely admired in the international art world for his courtesy, knowledge and charm. He was found on Thursday by his cleaning lady in his flat on the third floor of the Palazzo Rucellai in Via della Vigna Nuova, one of Florence's most fashionable addresses.

Police said he was lying on the floor in his dressing gown near the piano in his drawing room, his skull apparently smashed "by a heavy object such as a marble ashtray or table lamp". Neighbours said they had earlier heard him playing Bach fugues on the piano. He had been struck at least four times.

Count di Robilant, who lived alone, was divorced from his American wife, Elizabeth (nee Stokes), whom he married in 1956. With his tall good looks and air of distinction, he attracted numerous female admirers.

He enjoyed a debonair lifestyle in Florence and Venice, where his family originated. The family once owned the palazzo on the Grand Canal in which Byron lodged, and he was a leading light in the international "Save Venice" campaign, conducting a passionate drive for the restoration of the Venice Arsenal.

The Count spoke fluent English and moved with ease in the world of fine arts, continuing to advise and act for Sotheby's in Italy after his retirement. His son, Andrea di Robilant, is the Washington correspondent of *La Stampa*, and another, Filippo, is the spokesman in Brussels for Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner. Count di Robilant's brother, Carlo, who lives in London, was expected to arrive in Italy yesterday.

Julian Stock, the head of Sotheby's Rome office, said Count di Robilant had headed the Florence office of Sotheby's until his retirement in 1989. "I am devastated," he said. "Alvise was the perfect Italian gentleman, a man of enormous charm who never raised his voice and had no known enemies. He is the last person one would have thought would have met his end this way."

Although Count di Robilant's body showed no sign that he had fought his assailant, the apartment walls were covered in blood. The rooms had been ransacked, but police said none of his many valuable Old Master drawings, paintings and other art objects appeared to have been stolen. The computer in his study was still switched on, but the screen had been smashed, giving rise to speculation that information stored on discs or the computer's memory might provide a clue to the motive for the attack.

The front door of the apartment was unlocked, and the windows on to the terrace were open. But neighbours said this was often the case and the Count was "careless about security". His family had links with the Braganzas — the Portuguese Royal Family — and the Mocenigo family, which provided a number of Doges of Venice.

The palazzo in which he died is owned by another branch of his family, the Rucellais. Neighbours said there had been rows between the family and tenants of the building who allegedly had underworld connections.

Father's faith 'unshaken'

REGINALD GREEN, the father of an American boy shot dead by the Mafia, said yesterday his faith in Italian justice had not been dented by the acquittal of the alleged killers (Richard Owen writes).

Nicholas Green, 7, died when armed men tried to hold up the family's hired car in Calabria. Two mafiosi were acquitted on Thursday. Nicholas's organs were donated for transplants in Italy.

Figure for Nazi loot in error

From Peter Capella in Geneva

ILLICIT Nazi gold dealings with Switzerland were probably worth about $116 million (about £70 million) at the time, far less than was previously reported, the Foreign Office in London said yesterday.

In a revised version of a report on a 1946 reparations agreement concluded by Switzerland and the Allies, the Foreign Office in effect admitted that its researchers had made a mistake on a key figure last September, writing $500 million instead of SwFr500 million. British archives indicate that the amount was quoted by a Swiss National Bank official during negotiations with the Allies.

When it was originally published, the report on gold looted by the Nazis in occupied Europe triggered a storm of criticism and demands for additional compensation from Switzerland. The Swiss paid SwFr250 million in 1946 in compensation for bullion that they had bought from Germany during the Second World War.

The Swiss Government welcomed the correction while regretting that "on the basis of incorrect information Switzerland has been condemned hastily and out of hand, damaging the country's image".

Letters, page 23

Sofia's old dictator dreams of making a comeback

From Richard Owen in Sofia

ON THE snow-covered mountain high above the shabby streets of Sofia, an old man of 85 is watching the tragedy of Bulgaria's descent into economic collapse and political turmoil with grim satisfaction: Todor Zhivkov, the wily former Communist dictator who was overthrown in the East European upheavals of 1989.

Mr Zhivkov, who ruled Bulgaria with authoritarian ruthlessness from 1954, is under house arrest. But the house is large, comfortable and set in several acres of silver birches in the VIP residential area of Boyana, on Mount Vitosha. Close by is the medieval Boyana church, whose 13th-century biblical frescoes include a stunning Last Supper with garlic, radishes and bread — the staple Bulgarian diet — on the disciples' table.

Mr Zhivkov's former subjects are lucky nowadays if they can get hold of bread at all. The parliament, which reopened under heavy police guard on Wednesday after days of riots and street protests, has now approved the emergency import of wheat to avoid a complete bread shortage. The newspaper *Trud* said wheat stocks in Bulgaria would run out by March. Bread prices, it said, had risen elevenfold in a year. The average monthly wage is the equivalent of £12, with a loaf costing 30p.

Mr Zhivkov has taken to telling visitors that he had "always predicted" Bulgaria's descent into economic chaos after the fall of communism. The Bulgarian currency — the lev — has slumped to a tenth of its value against the dollar a year ago, and inflation is running at 310 per cent annually.

"The people still love me," Mr Zhivkov told one visitor. "They still call me Tato — Grandad." Mr Zhivkov's argument is that he anticipated Mikhail Gorbachev by trying to bring a form of "perestroika" to Bulgaria long before the former Soviet leader began to liberalise Russia. Seventy per cent of exports were electronics and machine tools, "not potatoes".

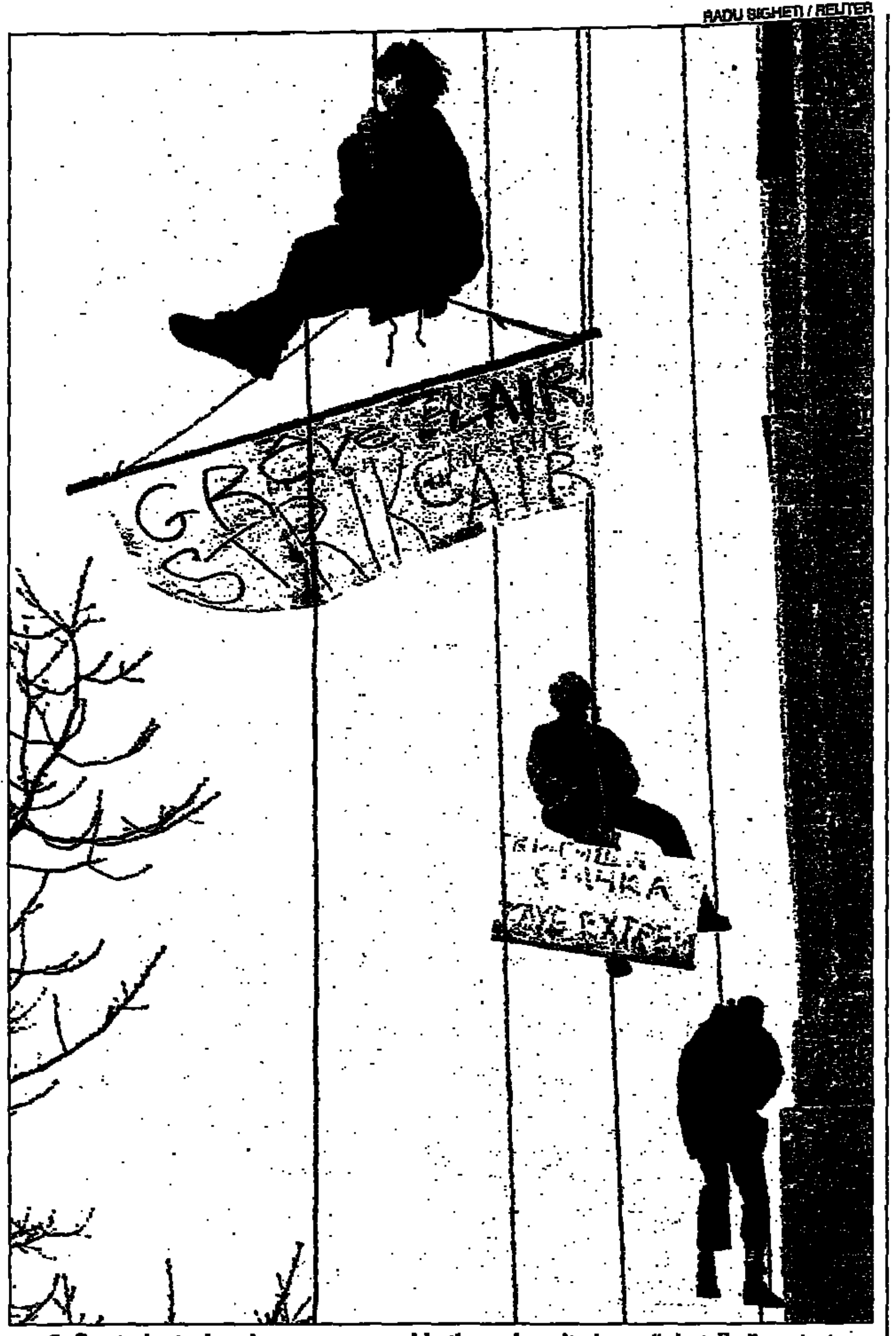
The former Communists, renamed the Socialist Party of Bulgaria (BSP), were returned to power two years ago. But Mr Zhivkov insists they lack his "smack of firm government" and muses that the country may yet turn back to him.

This is not how many Bulgarians remember the old days, however. Opposition politicians such as Ivan Kostov, leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, recall that Mr Zhivkov was so servile to the old-style Soviet Union that at one stage he suggested to Moscow — according to recently opened party archives — that Bulgaria should become a Soviet republic.

Opposition leaders also recall that when Mr Zhivkov was ousted in 1989 he was charged with embezzlement of state funds and investigated for support for international terrorism and suppression of the rights of Bulgaria's one millon ethnic Turks.

As the wave of protests continues, more doctors are joining the strikes, saying hospitals can no longer afford to heat wards or feed patients, let alone treat them. One surgeon at a children's cancer ward said it was "at the end of its resources", and he would soon have to decide which of his young patients would live and which would die.

RADU SIGHETI / REUTER



Sofia students dangle on ropes outside the university in an "airstrike" protest

Zhivkov: "the people still love me"

Moscow hits back in war of the traffic offenders

From Robin Lodge in Moscow

THE Cold War may over but the Russians still know how to retaliate.

Two weeks after two diplomats from Russia and Belarus complained of being roughed up by New York police during a dispute over a parking ticket, the Moscow traffic police launched an exercise in reciprocity straight from the Soviet textbook.

The New York incident, in which the Russian diplomat said his arm had been broken, came after a spate of complaints by the city authorities that diplomats from the former Soviet Union were abusing their immunity with repeated traffic offences. The diplomats said they were being unfairly targeted by the US authorities.

The state-run newspaper *Rossiiskiye Vesti* said yesterday that parking fines in New York had caused "political confrontation", with a battle between the Russians' United Nations mission and the city authorities. More than 14,000 tickets had been issued to Russian diplomatic cars last year, it said, while Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Ambassador to the UN, had been given three tickets in one day.

This week rank-and-file traffic police in Moscow disclosed that they were preparing a crackdown on foreign drivers in retaliation. Last night the police confirmed that they had carried out a two-day operation against cars registered to foreigners, easily identified by their red or yellow number plates, although a spokesman denied any connection with the incidents in the United States.

"There has been a sharp rise in the number of accidents involving foreigners, so we thought it was time for a blitz," Viktor Priznyakov, of the Moscow State Motor Inspectorate, said. "It was the first of its kind, but I can tell you it will not be the last." According to the police, more than 200 offences were recorded, 26 cars were ordered off the road and 52 drivers fined. American drivers were found to be the worst offenders.

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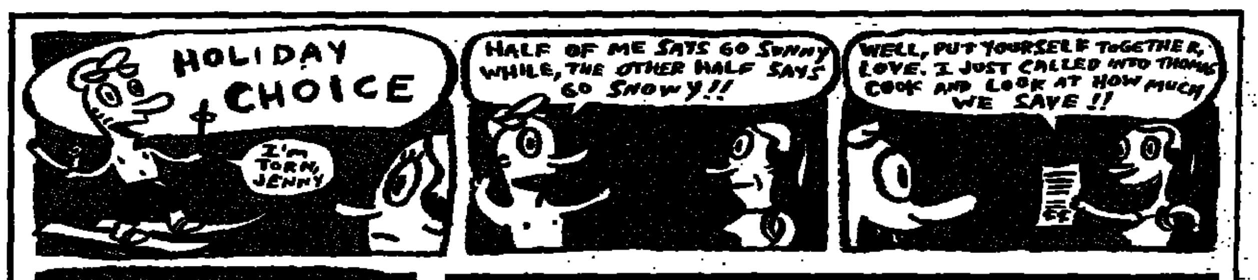
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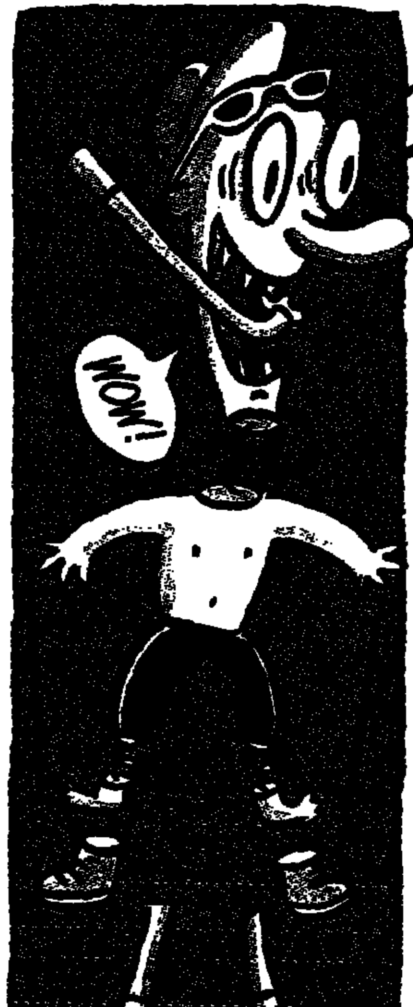

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Queen Bee of press sets Washington buzzing

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE lofty American newspaper publisher, Katharine Graham, has astonished her family, friends and colleagues by writing a highly personal autobiography which includes details of her husband's philandering and his suicide.

Mrs Graham, owner of *The Washington Post* and regarded as a powerful woman of discreet taste, has unburdened her soul to a remarkable degree. In her book she not only chronicles her newspaper's distinguished coverage of the Watergate scandal and her business life, but also examines her failings as a wife and details the affair that her late husband, Phil, had with a young Australian reporter.

Before the book was sent to her publisher, Mrs Graham's daughter, Lally, asked her: "Are you sure you want to put this in?" Her decision to proceed was all the more remarkable given the queasiness of American broadsheets, such as the *Post*, when it comes to examining the private lives of public figures.

Mrs Graham discloses that her husband nicknamed her "Porky" and describes the mood swings of his manic depression which would lead eventually to his suicide.

R. W. Apple Jnr, of *The New York Times*, a veteran newspaperman and a friend of Mrs Graham, said yesterday that the American capital was surprised by the personal nature of the memoirs. "A lot of this stuff has been whispered about before but I didn't ever expect to see it in a book by her," he said. "Kay has written the book she always said she couldn't write."

In addition to the details about her marriage — which include the almost-deranged letter that her husband wrote to her when it seemed their marriage must end — Mrs Graham describes her shortcomings as a mother. She also recalls her subservience to the overpowering Mr Graham, how she "seemed to enjoy the role of doormat wife" and how even after his death she was a tremulous rabbit, liable to weep at bad news.

The picture she draws of herself is very differenr to the collected newspaper proprietor who has known most of the key figures in American politics in the past 30 years and whose insistence on proceeding with the Watergate story helped to bring down the Nixon Administration.

Mrs Graham, 79, also reflects on her close relationships with many of the politicians, such as Henry Kissinger and, early on in his presidency, Richard Nixon. Although she has long been regarded as an integral part of the classy Washington Establishment, she is viewed by friends as the Queen Bee of the "liberal media conspiracy" against the Right.

The Katharine Graham of "Beltway" society, supremely connected, and supervising a handsome salon from her large, park-lined house in Georgetown, will never be seen in the same way. *Personal History* may be one of the most surprising and candid self-portraits by a press baron.

Unlike some public figures, Mrs Graham wrote the book by herself. "Considering that she is not a professional writer, it is written pretty well," Mr Apple said. "In fact, she writes rather better than some of my reporters!"

IN HER book, Katharine Graham lays bare the events surrounding her husband's suicide.

She recalls how she and her husband retired to bed after lunch at their country farmhouse. After a short while he left the room and moments later there was the sound of a gun being fired. "I bolted out of the room and ran around in a frenzy looking for him," she writes. "When I opened the door to a downstairs bathroom, I found him .... The wounds were so ghastly that I just ran into the next room and buried my head in my hands."

Katharine Graham tells of her late husband's philandering in *Personal History*

France angers Iraq with Uday ban

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ has rebuked France for refusing to allow President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, enter the country for hospital treatment following an assassination attempt last month. It said that French businessmen could lose lucrative contracts as a result.

"We consider that the French Government has committed a monumental error," thundered the government daily, *al-Thawra*, in a front-page editorial. "This inhuman attitude will harm France."

The tirade was seen as further evidence that the condition of Uday, 33, is far more serious than first admitted. It came just days after Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, praised France for leaving Britain and the United States to police the six-year-old exclusion zone over northern Iraq.

France was Iraq's main Western arms supplier before the Gulf War and Baghdad still owes France about £3 billion.

Reclusive Salinger to publish first book in 34 years

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

J. D. SALINGER, whose *The Catcher in the Rye* became the totem of disillusionment for a generation, next month publishes his first book for 34 years.

The reclusive author, 78, who has devoted his energies for three decades to shielding himself from public attention, has banned any publicity about the book; even details of the number of copies printed. News of the forthcoming publication leaked out despite his wishes through a bookstore's Internet pages.

However, to the disappointment of fans who had hoped for a further instalment of the Glass family, characters central to much of Mr Salinger's fiction, the book, entitled *Hapworth 16, 1924*, is believed to be essentially a reprint of an 80-page story which took up almost the whole of the June 19, 1965, edition of *The New Yorker* magazine.

The narrator of the story is Seymour Glass, who features in many Salinger stories. The book takes the form of a letter to his family, home from the seven-year-old Seymour while at summer camp. When first published, the story attracted savage reviews. The *Los Angeles Times* commented in 1988 that it "was widely regarded as narcissistic, prolix and ultimately obscure in its intent". It has, however, remained a collector's item.

Authors John Updike and Mary McCarthy also argued that Mr Salinger's obsession with the Glass family, the subject of his novel *Franny and Zooey*, was damaging his fiction. Nonetheless, the publication by Orchises Press, an obscure Virginia publishing house, is being hailed as "the literary coup of the decade". Between 1951 and 1963 Mr Salinger published four books: *Catcher, Nine Stories, Franny and Zooey* and *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters*.

He has never allowed his stories published in magazines to be reprinted or collected in anthologies. Since the 1965 appearance of *Hapworth*, he has published nothing. He is judged to be one of the most influential postwar American novelists.

However, since *Catcher* in 1951, he has retreated into as much isolation as he can command. He married in 1953 but divorced in 1967, and lives in seclusion in New Hampshire. He has ordered his agents to throw away fan mail unopened.

A few months ago, he instructed them to track down the author of a World Wide Web page devoted to his books; the page has been withdrawn.

Salinger: ordered agent to throw away fan mail

Archbishop Tutu reading a card from a well-wisher

Tutu has operation for prostate cancer

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu, the former head of the Anglican Church in South Africa and 1984 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has been diagnosed as suffering from prostate cancer.

John Allen, his secretary, said in Cape Town yesterday that the archbishop, 65, had undergone surgery on Wednesday when most of the prostate was removed. More tests would be carried out to ascertain if the disease had spread.

Archbishop Tutu sounded as cheerful as ever when he was telephoned at a private clinic on Thursday. He said: "The doctor is very pleased with my progress and I am sitting in bed watching the cricket [the Third Test between South Africa and India]. I expect to be in hospital until the weekend and off work for about three weeks. I would like to thank people for their wishes and prayers."

He retired last June as Archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and St Helena, but postponed plans to take up a study fellowship in Atlanta, Georgia, in order to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is hearing testimony about human rights abuses during the apartheid era.

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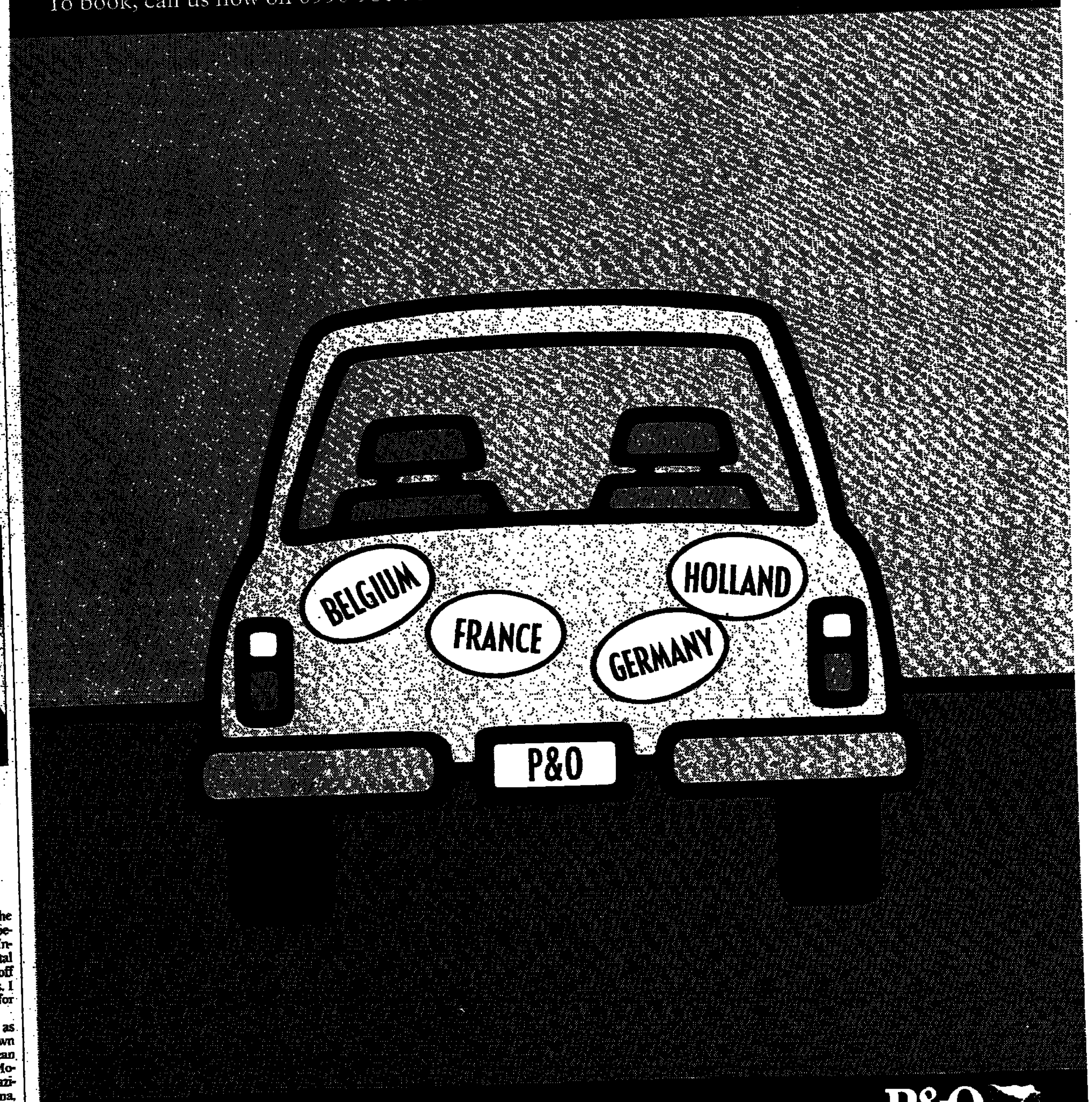

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New spouse of Czech President cracks down on 60-a-day man as fears about his health persist

JIRI JIRU / AP

The Havels during their civil wedding ceremony in Prague town hall this month

Wife stubs out Havel habit

DAGMAR HAVEL (or more correctly Havlova) has started to crack down on her newly wed husband. Vasek, she has been telling friends, is strictly banned from lighting up; it is the beginning of the end of the 60-a-day man. Vasek, of course, is Vaclav Havel, the sardonic playwright, dissident intellectual and President of the Czech Republic.

In short, a man with his own mind. But he knows better than to defy his actress bride who starred in such classics as *The Vampire of Ferrata*. In that 1970s film, still vivid in the memory, the future First Lady played a racing driver whose car turns her into a vampire by sucking blood out of her feet. One scene, particularly difficult to forget, shows her topless and nibbling the neck of Jiri Menzel, the film director.

The Havel wedding this month took almost everybody by surprise, coming only eight days after the President left hospital. Mr Havel, who is 60, had half his right lung removed because of cancer. Doctors now say they have found a second, benign, growth and Prague rumours suggest that the President's prognosis may not be quite as rosy as has been suggested in official bulletins. That may explain the rush to marry Dagmar, 43, who is a long-standing friend.

PRAGUE FILE

by ROGER BOYES

Mr Havel is certainly aware of his mortality. His first wife, Olga, his companion during the dissident years, died of cancer almost exactly a year ago, aged 62. He had no children with Olga, although he has gained a stepdaughter through his marriage to Dagmar.

That first marriage was regarded as one of the great love matches in the dissident movement, although he had his share of girlfriends. Vashek and Olga would talk books, drink coffee and, of course, smoke at the Café Slavia, the most remarkable of Prague's literary hangouts just opposite the National Theatre. One of Mr Havel's most moving books, composed in a communist prison, is entitled *Letter to Olga*.

Czechs, therefore, have had a hard time accepting his remarriage to a "lightweight" actress. Mr Havel says that Olga on her deathbed told him to remarry quickly because "I am not a man who can live alone".

The smoking ban on Mr Havel makes sense for a man recovering from lung cancer, but many Czechs see it as a kind of farewell to the dissident era. Central European intellectuals — Mr Havel or Jacek Kouron in Poland — are simply unthinkable without a cigarette drooping from their lips.

Havel in the days before the domestic smoking ban

It was part of the uniform: there was no other way to discuss Nietzsche or the Chinese human rights movement. Barbra Streisand once said that Mr Havel was the only man in the world allowed to smoke in her presence.

There does seem to be a gentle conspiracy to keep Mr Havel smoking in defiance of Dagmar. A last cigarette before the operation was puffed with the Health Minister, the chainsmoking former dissident Jan Strasky. The loyal chief surgeon said after the operation that it was "unclear" how far the cancer had been caused by cigarettes.

True to form, Mr Havel has intellectualised his dilemma. Previously an exponent of the libertarian school — everyone fully informed of the risks should have the right to smoke — he now says that "the non-smoker is a truly free person".

Prague residents have little doubt that Dagmar will keep her husband on the straight and narrow. Her roles, apart from vampires, include Cathérine in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Lady Macbeth, both very instructive parts for a First Lady.

Sudeten German saga nears end

HELMUT KOHL travels to Prague next week to sign the long-delayed document closing the chapter on the Sudeten Germans.

President Havel, apparently, will be well enough to see the German leader and Herr Kohl says he is looking forward to the meeting: the President is regarded as one of the few pro-German enthusiasts in the Czech political class.

When Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, visited Mr Havel after his recent operation he found him unable to speak, his face a jumble of feeding tubes.

Herr Kinkel showed the Sudeten deal to the patient and Mr Havel scrawled a love-heart on the paper and pointed to the German Minister. Herr Kinkel clearly was very touched.

Drinkers cheer return of absinthe

ABSINTHE makes the heart grow fonder, especially in Prague.

Before his 60th birthday President Havel ordered a crate of the potent pale green drink that has inspired poets and driven artists mad, made them blind and, in the case of Vincent van Gogh, rendered them ear-less.

Czechs, of course, are passionate beer drinkers and Prague men parade their distended stomachs like campaign medals. Now absinthe — banned almost every else in the world because of its alcoholic strength — has become the fashionable drink.

Absinthe was created by the French 200 years ago as an elixir, and the health-conscious Czechs took to it from the start. Today it is part of the Prague strut, particularly among the many hundreds of American would-be writers who believe that the Czech capital is the modern equivalent of Paris in the 1920s.

Hemingway, who learnt something about absinthe as a young journalist in the French capital of the 1920s, recorded after a Parisian drinking bout: "Got tight last night on absinthe ... did nice tricks." Havel's reaction to the arrival of his crate of absinthe is not known: shortly after it was delivered, he went under the surgeon's knife.

Judge puts foot down over ankle-kissing

By Richard Owen

A FACTORY worker and self-confessed foot fetishist was found guilty of "sexual violence" yesterday for kissing a girl, 16, on the ankle in public.

The man, 35, and named only by his initials, L.P., argued that he had been overwhelmed by a sudden fit of passion. But a court at Bolzano, near the Austrian border in northern Italy, ruled that he was guilty of assault.

The accused man told the court: "I know I did wrong, but womens' ankles drive me crazy." The Bolzano judge said L.P had assaulted the girl last August, when he stopped his car and accosted her the street.

"I thought at first he wanted to ask directions," the girl told police. Instead he claimed he was a chiropodist, complimented her on her finely turned ankles and offered to give her a "free on the spot check-up". The girl removed her sandal and lifted her foot up, at which point — according to the prosecution — he "completely lost control".

"He grabbed her leg before kneeling down to plaster her ankle and then her entire foot with unwanted kisses and licks, before biting her toes," the police report said. The girl screamed for help and her assailant drove off, but his victim made a note of the number plate and alerted police. The judge gave L.P. a one-year suspended jail sentence.

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■ OPINION

William Hogarth, born 300 years ago, would have been astonished at how tame satire has become

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Andrew Shore plays the lead in an Opera North *Falstaff* that never achieves lift-off

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Listen out for Charles Workman, a young American tenor who has the opera world at his feet

■ ON MONDAY

'What good is the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition to us northerners?' Melvyn Bragg asks

The stand-ups just won't be counted

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The inexorable passage of time flabbifies the memory, as well as many other vital organs. And I was only ten in 1964. But am I wrong in thinking that the last great period of Tory rule ended with a general election that was generally credited as a victory, not for Labour, but for a brilliant generation of satirists working in theatre and TV?

Well, you can guess the next thought that my tortoise-like mind is forming. Here we are, after 18 years that have not exactly been free of banana-skins, rotten apples and the odd dodgy orange. You would have thought that our stages would be crawling with young clever-dicks making merciless fun of our political masters and mistresses. Not to mention our masters' mistresses. And vice versa. Or "vice worser", as someone once quipped.

But where are they? True, we have as mordant a bunch of political cartoonists and sketch-writers in newspapers today as at any time in history. *Private Eye* and its rival-come-lately, *Viz*, hit more targets than they miss. A very small number of TV comics — Rory Bremner, Ben Elton and the blissfully funny John Bird and John Fortune — are allowed to kick the odd political shin. And in our theatres a few stalwarts like David Hare still turn out plays that graze political knuckles.

The overwhelming bulk of British culture, however, is astonishingly apolitical. Yes, our young dramatists, screenwriters and brighter pop lyricists do venture into social areas, but there is an ironic "what's the use?" melancholy about the writing, not a caustic "let's mock this lot to death" mentality.

Elsewhere, there is nothing remotely political to be found. The "installations" that dominate our art galleries are wrapped in so many bloody enigmas that any intended political message is indecipherable. And our TV comedies are mostly bland vignettes of loutish manners, light years from the abrasive wit of *Not the Nine O'Clock News* or *Yes, Minister*. I never thought I would yearn for the return of the puerile *Spitting Image*, but I do. At least it showed that there was somebody out there, in the anodyne Birtlands of modern TV, with sufficient mischief to throw a paper dart at Sir.

The depressing fact is that if Stalin's censor-in-chief, Andrei Zhdanov, was reborn in modern Britain he would gape in admiration at the sullen acquiescence this Government gets from its arts community. "What's the trick?" he would ask. "Torture? Midnight calls on difficult theatre directors from your famed Special Branch? Raids on the Groucho Club?"

"No," we would reply. "The arts world decided that being troublesome was too much trouble."

As if to point up the toothlessness of our era, the tercentenary of William Hogarth's birth falls this year. What would one give to have a Hogarth, Pope, Swift or Defoe around now to puncture the windbaggery of a modern election with a few malicious barbs of 18th-century wit?

After all, they would hardly have to alter their scripts. Hogarth's *The Election Entertainment*, for instance, lampoons political sleazebags. Well, they ain't extinct yet. His *Marriage-à-la-Mode* would need few changes to mock the antics of our present nobility. His *Four Stages of Cruelty*, an indictment of man's inhumanity to animals, is as relevant in the BSE era as in the 1750s. And don't forget that topical little engraving, *The Lottery*, a furious attack on governments that turn citizens into gambling addicts . . .

Why do we get so little sardonic commentary on our raddled political scene from the current bunch of creative people? Several reasons. First, satirists feel redundant. When British public life, at least as reported in the tabloids, emerges as one long, scarcely believable satire *in reality*, what is the point of caricature?

Secondly, the ratings-obsessed TV companies are scared of causing offence. They want talent that is harmless enough to amuse millions. By and large, they don't need to censor performers: the process is more subtle. All those wickedly alternative stand-ups who are so "dangerous" on the Edinburgh Fringe *voluntarily* tone down their acts for TV — since they all basically crave fame, fortune and the approval of Important People.

And thirdly, something similar goes on in subsidised theatre. It's not overt enough to be called self-censorship. It's simply that when theatre directors become too frightened of losing their subsidy, or of upsetting local councillors, or of antagonising their largely middle-class, middle-aged core audience, they will always tend to pick the safe Ayckbourn or Godber in preference to a biting condemnation of capitalism by the local Angry Young Playwright.

That's the problem with subsidised theatre, of course, which its most fanatical supporters overlook. You think that public funding sets you free to be innovative and daring — but deep down you know that you won't bite the hand that feeds. The Soviet Union's theatres were *superbly* subsidised.

But when bishops make more controversial forays into political life than artists or writers do, there's something wrong. Wake up, luvvies! Add a bit of creative spice to the debates of the day. Offend the great and the good. Mock the comic-strip Macbeths lurking in the Commons tearoom. You see, politics shouldn't be left to politicians. It's too funny for that.

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** is disappointed by an unfocused first night from Opera North — but promises tonight's ENO audience an exceptional treat

Slim midwinter pickings

For some reason — irony? bloody-mindedness? — Matthew Warchus sets his new production of *Falstaff* for Opera North in midwinter. Well, I suppose it's topical. The horse trough on which the Fat Knight collapses after his ducking is frozen over, and when Fenton launches into his aria in Windsor Great Park it promptly starts to snow. Quite apart from open-air nookie being the last thing on anyone's mind, it does all act as a bit of a downer on this sunniest of operatic comedies, and Laura Hopkins's determinedly drab sets and costumes — the forest scene is especially unlovely — are no help. The effect of a false-perspective street scene is spoilt by amateurish use of the child-extras who are supposed to enhance it.

Falstaff
Grand Theatre, Leeds

Frances McCafferty and Margaret Richardson (rear), Rita Cullis and Yvonne Howard (front) bring colour to *Falstaff*

So the singers have to work hard to bring the show to life, and my goodness they do, with varying degrees of success. Andrew Shore wraps himself round the words of Amanda Holden's earthy and communicative translation with enormous relish, but there are musical lines to be relished as well, and one longs for just a little more warmth and variety. Shore's Falstaff is young, vigorous and not especially fat — at least not by my standards — and his occasional old-age stumbles should fool no one. The melancholy post-ducking monologue may be the highlight of his performance vocally, but you aren't really made to warm to this foolish, fond old man — odd, with so inventive a performer and experienced a director.

Perhaps Rita Cullis sensed that Thursday's performance needed a good shake, and by the last act her Alice Ford had taken command of the stage with authority and wit; the gender-war, though, is in general underplayed. Robert Hayward sang consistently powerfully as Ford, and his blank, shell-shocked face at the start of the jealousy monologue was the evening's single arresting visual image.

Frances McCafferty's mobile features and deliciously roly-poly figure made up for a certain lack of vocal weight in her Quickly, and Paul Nilon (Fenton) almost made you forget the hideousness of his costume with the simple eloquence of his phrasing. There's some undercasting elsewhere.

Paul Daniel led a measured, rather careful performance: everything was in place from the attentive orchestra, everything audible in the pit and on stage as it should be, but the quicksilver wit of the score, its life-enhancing worldly wisdom, surfaced only intermittently, and the music never quite achieved lift-off.

A curiously unfocused first night. Something will need to happen before this shared production transfers to the ENO later in the year: apart from anything else, the toy-town sets will look pretty silly on the vast Coliseum stage.

Ten out of tenor

Charles Workman, pianist, trumpeter — and singer

Sometimes you hear singers so gifted that it's tempting to keep quiet about them in case the world finds out and takes them away, *Rodney Milnes writes*. So it was with the young American tenor Charles Workman, whose guest appearances as Almaviva in the *Barber* and Ferrando in *Così* at the Coliseum were so exceptional as to whet the appetite sharply for his Lindoro in ENO's new production of *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, opening tonight.

But it's too late to try to keep him secret: at last year's Rossini Festival in Pesaro he gave a sensational account of the technically terrifying role of Agorante in *Ricciardo e Zoraide*, and moved straight into the top rank of Rossini tenors. Salzburg is after him, he's going back to Pesaro this year for *Moïse*, and has succulent engagements in Paris and Geneva. And he made his professional debut only five years ago.

He lives in London with his wife, the British composer Alexandra Harwood (daughter of the playwright Ronald), and two young children. The couple met at the Juillard, where Workman went to study almost by chance. He was, he says, "a fair pianist and a good trumpet-player" — in other words, a practising musician, quite a rarity among opera singers. Interest in theatre led to a degree at Drew University, New Jersey, where he learnt acting, directing, lighting, stage-management — the lot. He started to study voice "as a dilettante", found out he could sing, and one thing led to another.

At Juillard he was lucky to find an exceptional teacher, Beverley Johnson, who also nurtured Renée Fleming. Workman remembers his study with her exclusively in terms of technique rather than vocal sound, and this is what makes him so fearless a Rossini tenor, equal both to decorations and to high-flying vocal lines, where his tone retains its sweet, open quality.

What of tonight's Lindoro? "It's one of the most daunting roles I've ever done — it's all so high, right from the opening cavatina. Maybe it's a matter of doing something a few times. There are 12 performances of *Italian Girl* so hopefully I'll start feeling a bit more comfortable by the end."

● *The Italian Girl* is at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300)

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Does Crosland's socialism have a future for Blair?

Anthony Howard on a philosopher king who anticipated new Labour

Most political leaders have an ideological pedigree. One of the troubling things about Tony Blair is that he appears to have none. Asked whence he derives his inspiration, he may murmur something about Henry Campbell-Bannerman — adding (not wholly selflessly) that the victor of the great Liberal landslide of 1906 turned out to be far more radical a Prime Minister than anyone expected from his period as Leader of the Opposition.

Yet in choosing among Labour's own household gods — Attlee, Bevan, Gaitskell, Wilson — he has, for understandable reasons, proved reticent to a fault. There exists, however, one different role model to whom Mr Blair might have been expected to attach his colours, although revealingly he has never done so. He is that great "revisionist" figure of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the Oxford don turned practising politician Anthony Crosland.

Two just-published academic studies on the legacy of the only philosopher-king produced by the British Left in the second half of the 20th century deserve to be required reading, at least in the present Labour leader's office. If nothing else, they demonstrate just how hard is the way of the transgressor against party orthodoxy in modern British politics. (Crosland tried twice, in 1972 and 1976, to become first deputy leader and then leader of his party, but was rewarded with a derisory vote on each occasion.)

He was, though, a wonderfully glamorous personality who ended up, if for all too brief a ten-month period (he died aged 58 in February 1977), as James Callaghan's Foreign Secretary in the last Labour Government to hold office in Britain. But this was never his real claim to fame. That rests instead on the book he produced 40 years ago called *The Future of Socialism* and, to a lesser degree, on two volumes of essays he subsequently published, *The Conservative Enemy* (1962) and *Socialism Now* (1976).

If any individual tried to provide a largely bemused Labour movement with a route map for its progress through a world a great deal more complex than that ever envisaged by Karl Marx (or, for that matter, by R.H. Tawney), then Crosland's claim to have performed that service remains indisputable.

Why, therefore, should Mr Blair be so reluctant to identify with him? In diagnosis there was certainly very little to choose between them. Virtually everything that Mr Blair has said since becoming Labour's leader in July 1994 about the need for the party to alter its base and change its appeal finds its echo in the various things that Crosland wrote during Labour's last period in the wilderness, between 1951 and 1964.

In particular, his famous Fabian tract *Can Labour Win?* uncannily predates the entire thrust of the Blairite approach towards modernising the party. The attack on the cloth-cap image, the questioning of the undue reliance on the trade unions, the apprehension that Labour suffered from being perceived as the party of austerity rather than of prosperity — it is all there.

The difficulty and embarrassment arise when it comes to remedies. However much of a "revisionist" he may have been perceived in his own age and time, Crosland remained an unrepentant socialist (who, like Mr Blair, would never have been tempted to join the SDP). As late as 1974, he committed himself to the view that "equality and higher public expenditure are what divides us from the Tories" — scarcely a message calculated to be palatable in today's Cromwellian Labour world, either to Mr Blair or to his Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

There was, inconveniently, a radical passion about Crosland's beliefs — he was, for example, an inveterate opponent of public schools — that would probably relegate him in the contemporary Labour Party, to the position of a Ken Livingstone or even a Tony Benn.

Rhetoric, though, is one thing: reality is quite another — and that was the story of Crosland's ministerial life. The Cabinet post he held for longest — 2½ years — was that of Minister of Education in Harold Wilson's first and second Governments. Here, it has to be said, his record was sadly disillusioning to all those who had taken at face value the bold, adventurous declarations with which he had excited a generation in *The Future of Socialism*.

Like Rab Butler, who in wartime probably had a greater opportunity, while doing his best to destroy the grammar schools Crosland did absolutely nothing about the public schools — merely kicking their future into touch via the palsied hands of a commission under Sir John Newsom. Worse than that, at the behest of his civil servants, he actually introduced — defying the Robbins report in the process — a steerage and first-class passenger approach to higher education through "the binary system". This deliberately established a form of academic apartheid between the polytechnics and the universities (a shaming piece of snobbish discrimination that was left for a Tory, Kenneth Baker, to unscramble 21 years later). Not for the first time, a theoretician discovered that the practicalities of politics were rather different from those conceived in the ivory tower.

That is, no doubt, one reason why Mr Blair — who, to do him justice, has always set his face against raising expectations that he cannot fulfil — is shy of accepting Tony Crosland as his mentor. But there is another. It may sound a brutal thing to say but, despite his own far from emollient nature, Crosland consistently preached a socialism without tears.

For him, economic growth, which he took to be an unassailable fact of life at least in the modern Western world, was destined to provide the solution to all redistribution problems. If the cake got larger, then the rich would not mind if their share of it, while remaining roughly the same in absolute terms, became proportionately smaller. This was the alchemy that he saw as solving the central dilemma of democratic socialism, and about that, even while he still lived, he was proved demonstrably wrong.

But it remains true that Mr Blair could afford to drink more openly at the Crosland fountain than he does. For one thing, though he got America badly out of focus, maintaining — against J.K. Galbraith — that a classless society was synonymous with an equal one, domestically he got a great many things right, including the fact that public ownership was never the socialist panacea that it was once supposed to be. On top of all that, he remained the debonair Cavalier of British politics who ripped the hair-shirt from the body of the Labour Party.

Perhaps the most eloquent statement in the whole of his classic work, *The Future of Socialism*, is the one in which he writes: "Total abstinence and a good filing system are not now the right signposts to a socialist utopia." That was interpreted at the time as a veiled attack on Sidney and Beatrice Webb — who even exchanged wedding rings with the same motto *pro bono publico* inscribed on each of them . It is a measure of the curiously joyless, Roundhead message that Tony Blair, Gordon Brown — and Jack Straw, too — are currently delivering to the British electorate that it begins to look like a criticism of them as well.

Anthony Crosland: The Mixed Economy *and* Crosland's Future: Opportunity and Outcome *by David Reisman are published by Macmillan Press at £45 each.*

Roger Scruton looks forward to *Palestrina*, the greatest opera never before staged in Britain

A musical offering to transcend our time

Hans Pfitzner's *Palestrina* this month receives its British premiere at Covent Garden, 80 years after its first performance under the great Bruno Walter in Munich. The opera's neglect in this country is due to many factors, not the least being the enormous cast required for its second act, in which the composer attempts the astonishing feat of staging the Council of Trent as music drama. Far more decisive, however, has been Pfitzner's resolute stance against Modernism, and his brave attempt to forge a style which would be the true successor to the Wagnerian, without departing from total harmony.

The quiet originality of *Palestrina* has nothing of the shock value which would recommend it to forward-looking directors, and it says much for the temper of our opera houses that this great opera is being produced in the wake of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* — an exorbitant work which merely pretends to be original, while in fact being no more than a ragbag of Modernist clichés.

Palestrina concerns an imagined spiritual crisis in the life of the 16th-century composer Pierluigi da Palestrina, when, during the Council of Trent, he is called upon to produce a Mass that would purify and renew the liturgical tradition of the Catholic Church. Into this simple story Pfitzner reads another: his own predicament as a tonal composer, heir to the great tradition of German Romantic music, in an age of musical iconoclasm. And also another: the condition of modern Europe, having thrown away its religion, and facing the void. One man's effort to transcend his sterility and loneliness becomes, in Pfitzner's work, the effort of all of us to rededicate our earthly existence, and to face our inner life with confidence, despite the chaos and turmoil of the world outside.

From the very opening measures you hear the spiritual elevation of Pfitzner's music. Tonal it certainly is, in D minor with resonances of the old church modes. There are standard cadences and solid triads. Yet the harmonies are diverted from their natural tendency, and create an airy, spectral impression. For most of the magnificent first act we are presented with an ever-moving image of concord behind a veil of mild dissonance. Altered notes dislodge the structures above them, so that they fall upon their neighbours. But everything happens naturally, peacefully, and with the clarity of a true polyphonist. The effect is like an echo in the vault of some great cathedral, and the drama creates a similar impression — as though relayed to us over a vast distance, its worldly accidents refined away, and only the spiritual essence remaining.

Pfitzner wrote his own libretto, and it is a minor masterpiece, containing lines of true poetry. The chastity of the music is matched by the purity of the characters, and even if you may wonder at the possibility of a drama in which the only woman — Palestrina's dead wife — is a ghost, this too has the ring of truth. The music gives reality and substance to this lonely, decent man, as he comes to terms with his three calamities: the death of a beloved wife, the self-destruction of Christian Europe, and the rise of a musical idiom which spurns the old masters of harmony.

There is in Pfitzner's hero an indissoluble unity between private affections and artistic ideals. Palestrina is an ordinary Roman bourgeois for whom marriage and home are necessities, and whose artistic life thrives upon domestic peace. His peace is calamitously lost, and with it his creative urge. But he rediscovers both, and finds through music a proof of the apostolic idea, at the very moment when the squabbles and intrigues of the Council of Trent are threatening to destroy it. The outside world may dissolve in chaos, pure power may strut on the political stage, but the inner life remains and can be repossessed through music.

But the act of repossession is also an act of submission. The composer makes an offering of his music, on the altar built by the masters. To break with the past, to pour scorn on its inner wisdom, is to align oneself with the void. It is to lose the hope of inner peace, in a world where no other peace remains to us.

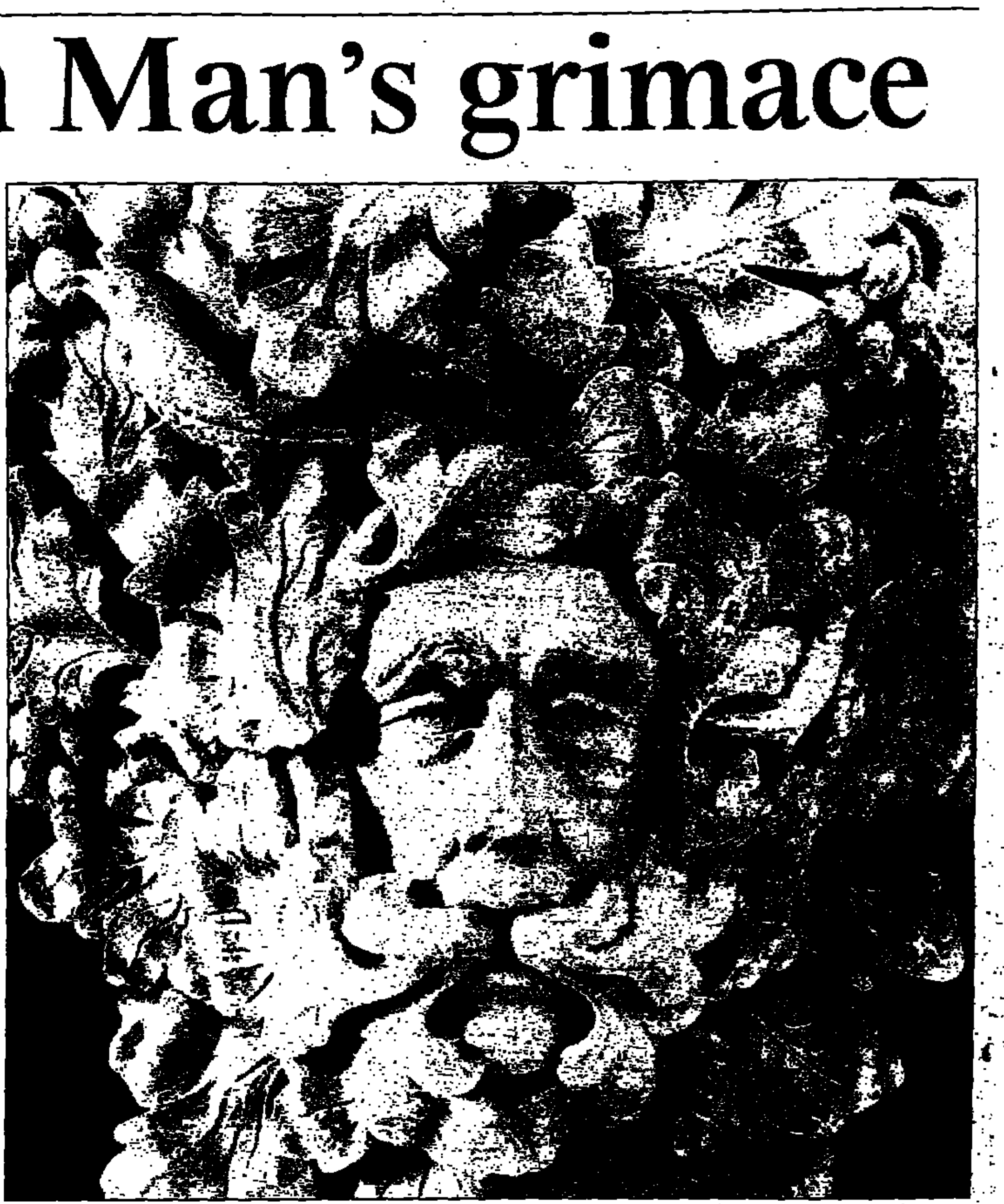
Serious painters, composers and writers of my generation are familiar with the predicament portrayed in Pfitzner's opera. We know it from Britten, Eliot, Moore, and Thomas Mann — and it is a predicament that does not concern artists only. To all of us is bequeathed a cultural inheritance which has proved itself through the greatness of its works of art. But we live in a time of loss — loss of faith and the natural affections which helped our forebears through their daily difficulties, and which inspired them to produce such permanent artistic records of their hopes and fears. Some of us seek to live without those things, and erect a pantomime of scorn with which to fortify scepticism. Others decide instead to hate their inheritance, and produce nihilistic drivel like *Die Soldaten*, or art of the Turner Prize variety, designed to make a mockery of the creative act and so to deny the fact of creation. Others simply retreat into their private pleasure dome, turn on the telly and wait for the end.

But the art of our civilisation endures, a permanent proof that human life has a meaning and that in living for the moment we invite our own destruction. Like Goethe's Faust, we must learn to possess our inheritance and to make it our own. For it is the source of our values, and the only thing that lasts.

The Green Man's grimace

Ubiquitous mystery of medieval art, this demon is beyond good and evil

Simon Jenkins



Green Man with hawthorn and birds, early 14th century, at All Saints Church, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire

The head is of a handsome man of mature years. His brow is furrowed and his eyes have a slight squint. His mouth is open. From it, indeed from the depths of his throat, emerge two giant hawthorn leaves. These sprout more leaves curling up round his cheeks and down under his chin. They become his whiskers and beard. They garland his head, then leap off into space. Nuts grow among them and thrushes collect to eat the nuts. Man becomes nature. From a human mouth spew all the lush riches of the world.

The face is carved in stone, high on a corbel in Sutton Berger church in Wiltshire. It is of a Green Man, for a thousand years the most common, and mysterious, symbol in English art. The Green Man inspired medieval sculpture, painting, drama and dance. He gave his name to a thousand inns, living on in their pub signs. He is Jack-in-the-Green, Man-in-the-Oak, the woodman, wodwose, ivyman, woodhouse, perhaps the May King, perhaps even Bottom.

The Green Man is the wild man of pageant and heraldry. He abducts women into the forest and devours unbaptised children. Though he features nowhere in Christian symbolism, Green Men peer down from the roofs and out of the walls of half the medieval churches in England. Some Green Men have greenery sprouting from their nostrils, others from their ears, others from the hair. Some squint, some grin, some sneer. All are in the bizarre act of exuding nature from the orifices of their heads.

I am intrigued by vast knowledge of minutiae. Somewhere on Namibia's Skeleton Coast is a man who leads safaris on his hands and knees with a magnifying glass. His prey are the insects coming up briefly for moisture at dawn. Those who return from such expeditions are mesmerised by the man's talent for bringing the minute to life. (Afterwards, they find dogs looking like elephants.)

Kathleen Basford is safari queen of the Green Men. This week she publishes a compendium of these creatures in all their glory. Her scholarship is microscopic rather than monumental. There is not much to say about Green Men and what she has to say she confines to just 20 pages of text and notes. The rest of her book is photographs taken by herself. They are astonishing. She has travelled Europe in search of Green Men, her husband stooping beneath the weight of her cameras.

She has found Roman Green Men (in the guise of Bacchus) and Saxon Green Men. She has found Normans and Goths. Their foliate spume adorns chests, tombs, bosses, benches, doorways and screens. At Ely a Green Man has his tongue hanging out. At Winchester the foliage appears to emanate from gigantic moustaches. Green Men occur in Germany and France and one even graces the façade of San Pietro near Viterbo.

Yet at the end we have no clearer idea of what these sinister characters really meant to their creators. Some time after the Reformation, all awareness of their significance appears to have sunk back into their Dark Ages past. To Basford they were "powerful fantasies of the eerie and the macabre . . . The eyes glare balefully or stare unfocused into space, full of dark foreboding."

The earliest foliate heads occur in late-Roman art. Another student of the phenomenon, William Anderson, has traced them to as far apart as Baalbeck and Trier in Germany. But it was Gothic architects who brought the leaf into full flower. On a portal at Chartres, faces seem to emerge and recede from the centre of individual leaves, like Cheshire cats or the speaking trees in cartoons. In England, by the 13th century, an arboretum of motifs surrounds the face, hawthorn, hops, vines, ivy and the favourite oak.

The most extraordinary effusion is in Southwell chapter house, where every niche is crowned with a face vomiting foliage. At Dorchester Abbey this act appears to cause the man intense pain. At Winchester he comes clothed and armed with sword and shield. At Lincoln he appears frantic to escape the ghastly vegetation growing from his mouth. At Ottery St Mary, in Devon, leaves sprout horribly from the pupils of the man's eyes. So particular are these portrayals as to defy generalisation that they are merely woodland demons. The nightmare figures are carefully delineated, as if referring to a specific message from the underworld.

Something was going on in the mind of these carvers, something that the pre-Reformation Church could not banish even from under its own roofs. Woods and forests dominated the English landscape at the time. Fear of trees was like fear of the sea. These mythical creatures of the woods are like the mermaids of the ocean. They were worshipped by the Druids. They were not just Green Men but nymphs and dryads, maypoles and wicker giants.

Green Men are mostly very human. Expressing fear in human form is a familiar way of warding it off. The woodmen of old are the aliens and extraterrestrials of today. Hence the Jacks-in-Green of medieval pageant. Hence Puck. As Basford says: "It is when the fantasy is expressed most naturalistically that it seems most eerie and touches us most powerfully."

What is extraordinary about Green Men is that creatures so ostensibly evil should be celebrated not just as creatures of the forest but as fountainheads of nature. Equally odd is that this fountainhead should have come to dominate Christian iconography. The Green Man at times seems to preside over church worship. At Exeter he supports a Virgin and Child. At Southwell a Green Man keeps watch over the heads of each canon during their deliberations. Almost wherever the fruit of the forest is used to grace the portals of a church, a pagan face looms out as the progenitor of greenery.

Some see in the Green Man a portrayal of renewal, part of the pagan/Christian ritual of the maypole and Rogantide. If he is the English Primavera — and these carvers our native Botticellis — the Middle Ages must have been grim indeed. Basford rejects this interpretation. She sees the Green Man as in direct descent from the wood gods, often a version of the Devil himself. Another Exeter Green Man is stamped underfoot by the Virgin as the spirit of evil. No expression of life could be so universally ugly and disagreeable. If this is man going through the birth pangs of nature, his mouth as vagina, then the message is even more obscure. (There are no Green Women, unless the image above the door in Clare church can be so described.)

I sense that we must leave the Green Man his Manichaean paradox. Whether evil or good, natural or spiritual, he has locked his secret away in stone. Perhaps he is just watching, as the past always watches, foretelling mortality. As the medieval verse goes: "So here's a thought your teeth to clench./ All greenness comes to withering." Yet he leads us, as Basford found, "to some of the most beautiful places on earth, the churches and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. It is a strange demon that can lead us to such heavenly vistas."

The Green Man will have the last grimace. The natural landscape of the British Isles is not field or scrub or moorland. It is forest. Come Armageddon, leave agriculture to rot, and forest would again cover most of Britain. Trees will seize suburban gardens, motorway interchanges, hypermarkets and office blocks, as they seized whole monasteries after the Dissolution. Trees will invade the valleys and climb up the hillsides. In those trees we shall again see the dark men, their mouths stuffed with leaves.

The Green Man *is published by Boydell & Brewer at £35.*

Left out

THE TIMES DIARY

LOST in the confusion of Nicola Horlick's career at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management may also be her longed-for political career. Mrs Horlick was set on a career as a Labour politician.

Last year she attended a private City lunch with Peter Mandelson, the Labour MP and campaign director. Her office and immediate staff, among them Carl Sternberg, a fund manager in his late twenties, have been an important stopping-off point for Labour's sallies into the City.

Like Matthew Harding, the late Chelsea FC director and reinsurance whiz, who had hopes of being a Labour Cabinet minister, Mrs Horlick often spoke of how she fancied a role on a Labour government front bench. Her extraordinary business success, coupled with her homeliness — she was known around the office as Brenda, particularly after it was discovered she was a keen knitter — would have doubtless propelled her upwards in the Harriet Harman mould.

Now, however, she has fled to Frankfurt to lobby her German bosses. This comes after frantic nights and days on the telephone as she marshals her supporters, and an embarrassing tussle with Morgan Grenfell's personnel director in the lobby of her old offices.

All of which is bad news. Like dour German bankers, there is little new Labour hates more than a panicker.

Dole cheque

FORMER Senator Bob Dole, the losing candidate in last year's American presidential election, is to appear in a television advertisement for a credit card company.

Mr Dole, who is fast becoming the most popular loser in American politics, was paid an estimated $500,000 for the commercial for Visa International. He intends to give a "sizeable portion" to charity.

The minute-long advertisement, which will be broadcast in the United States next weekend on the night of American football's Superbowl, shows Mr Dole visiting his home town of Russell, Kansas, and, although being welcomed by the locals, finding it impossible to buy provisions with a cheque. "It looked like a lot of fun, it showcases my home town and it's a nice break from working on my inaugural address" — a wry recognition of the fact that had the election gone the other way, he would on Monday have been sworn in as President.

Noodled

FROM my drawer of confusing hotel instructions come these two clauses found at the Victory Hotel in Guangdong, China:

"5. Strictly forbid to go whoring, drug taking, gamble and engaga in speculation. Strictly forbid to spit anywhere, strictly forbid scribble.

"7. Don't permit fighting, excessive drinking in hetel. The Protection Dept. of this hotel will handle the trouble maker, order of the hotel influencer."

Flat footed

MICHAEL Flatley, the petulant dancer who once starred in *Riverdance*, has dismissed his management company, John Reid Enterprises. Not so long ago, Flatley parted company acrimoniously from *Riverdance* to set up his own company, managed by John Reid, a hugely respected figure who has successfully managed Elton John for 20 or so years.

"We have been informed that Michael Flatley no longer wishes us to act as his manager," says a spokesman for Reid. "We regret we have no alternative but to recognise that the relationship cannot continue in those circumstances." All these manoeuvrings will be of special interest to Princess Margaret, a keen Flatley fan, who has been to see *Riverdance* four times.

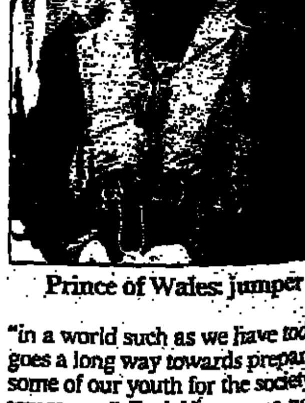
"Are you trying to get on my nerves?"

Geronimo

WHILE Diana, Princess of Wales, highlights the plight of mine victims in Angola, her ex-husband has also decided to broaden his portfolio. He has become patron of the British Parachute Association.

A tentative 'chutist himself — he has made a couple of jumps, neither particularly distinguished — the Prince nevertheless believes in the rigorous discipline and the refreshing nature of the sport.

"A sport such as this," he says, "in a world such as we have today, goes a long way towards preparing some of our youth for the society of tomorrow." Earl Howe sees nothing contentious in the Prince's statement.



Prince of Wales: jumper

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

THE OLD BILL

Howard has moved some distance, but not far enough

The arm of the law should be long but not infinite. The original provisions of the Police Bill, which permitted the bugging and burglary of private property with the blessing of a chief constable, failed to find an appropriate balance between efficiency and liberty. At one stage the tacit collusion of the two front benches seemed enough for it to sail through Parliament. Protest at the offending clauses has ensured that rigorous scrutiny will be applied when the measure meets the House of Lords next week.

Both Michael Howard and Jack Straw have moved some distance over the past few days. Stung by the accusation that Labour was ditching its traditional concerns for civil rights in pursuit of electoral rewards, the Shadow Home Secretary has sought enhanced authority for the judiciary over the surveillance procedure. Mr Straw is now much closer to the position occupied by, among others, the Liberal Democrats. Abandoned by his accomplice, Mr Howard has deftly offered a raft of concessions designed to meet the torrent of opposition that has flowed from the legal establishment and elsewhere.

The Home Secretary's amendments are not insubstantial. The Government would now oblige chief constables who authorised such actions to notify the commissioner, a senior judge supervising this whole procedure, as soon as was practicable. In cases of unusual sensitivity, such as those involving doctors, lawyers, or journalists holding confidential information, the commissioner would be consulted within 48 hours. The period over which such covert operations could be conducted purely on the basis of decisions reached by senior police officers would be scaled back.

Such alterations are to be welcomed as far as they go. But they are essentially procedural in nature and do not go far enough. The fundamental objection to this legislation has always been rooted in the principle that judges are better placed to weigh the relative merits of a police investigation against the liberties of individual citizens. The latest proposals from Mr Howard would tighten the subsequent scrutiny available to the commissioner over chief constables but would still place them in a secondary role. The core power of initiating such inquiries would reside with the police. This remains an unacceptable encroachment on British freedoms.

The stance now taken by Mr Straw is not completely satisfactory either. His suggestions would make prior approval from judges the norm but could grant a disturbingly large number of exceptions. Labour needs language of greater precision before the qualms of those concerned with civil liberties should be completely calmed.

Little evidence has been brought forward by the Home Office to explain why granting the judiciary such influence would undermine the effectiveness of this bill. Unless such an argument could be produced, and then found completely compelling, the House of Lords should exercise its proper function of review and reject this legislation. There is still time for Mr Howard to avoid a confrontation with the Upper House. The Government could accept that prospective consent from judges was essential. It would be well advised to do so.

HIS FELLOW AMERICANS

Brevity and principle should be Clinton's watchwords

On Monday, Bill Clinton has to deliver an inaugural address from the steps of the US Capitol. In the past the President has tended towards talks of considerable duration. History suggests he should instead seek out a text shorter in length and longer in principle.

The two most memorable inauguration speeches, by wide acclaim, were provided by Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy. Both were brief. Lincoln had already mastered this art form. His 272-word address at Gettysburg far eclipsed the two-hour effort from Edward Everett that preceded him. In 1865 he took the oath of office and offered a mere 703 words to his assembled audience. But in that limited space his strategy towards the shattered South — "with malice towards none; with charity for all" — was outlined with the utmost precision. Lincoln's magnanimity for those who had opposed him in the Civil War, and passionate desire to "achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace", shone through with every sentence.

Kennedy could not be quite so concise. Nonetheless, his 1,300 words in 1961 were the shortest formal oration of this century. This first inaugural to be witnessed by millions worldwide via television established his reputation as a public speaker. Like Lincoln he chose one theme alone and stuck with it. For Kennedy it was the responsibility of his generation to prosecute the Cold War. To "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship" in order to "assure the survival and success of liberty".

Politicians are rarely so terse by choice. In each case there was an accidental element. The Washington to which Lincoln spoke was known to be awash with Southern spies and sympathisers. A prolonged monologue by the President was thought impolitic. That sentiment was well-founded. Forty-one days after his plea for reconciliation, Lincoln was slain in the city by John Wilkes Booth. With his demise went what limited hope remained for harmonious reconstruction.

Kennedy rewrote his remarks right up to the day of delivery. Uninspired by initial drafts he dropped policy detail after detail. The freezing temperatures of that winter ultimately forced his hand. Fearful for the health of Robert Frost, whom he had invited to read his poem *The Gift Outright*, Kennedy made the final cuts.

Mr Clinton might consider all this before standing before his countrymen. The best course, not only to ensure a well-received speech but for his second term, would identify that one aspect that he would like to be remembered for and keep that as his focus. In his early tenure the President frequently tried to change too much on too many fronts. If the next four years are to produce more progress, then a different tack has to be taken. Priorities must be picked and followed consistently. If that can be properly presented in the minimum of paragraphs, so much the better.

If the White House has been sold opposite advice it might consider the fate of William Harrison. On the coldest inauguration day since records began he spoke for 100 minutes. Not surprisingly he caught a chill which quickly turned to pneumonia. Harrison died 31 days after assuming office.

Mr Clinton is unlikely to suffer Harrison's fate. But he will want to emulate those more illustrious figures. Lincoln and Kennedy exploited this ceremonial event to define their political objectives. If this President could match that even in a modest way he would be well served. The time is not to ask what Americans can do for him, but what he can now do for Americans.

A BROTHER'S HAND

The Chief Rabbi is right to attend the Gryn memorial

In the Hebrew Bible, there is no more poignant passage than that in which Jacob is reconciled with his estranged brother Esau. The news of Esau's imminent arrival with 400 men terrifies Jacob: Esau's envy and hatred of his younger brother, destined to greatness, had caused their mother to send Jacob away for his own safety. Jacob entreats God: "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children." But when the brothers meet, they embrace and weep, and Jacob offers all that he possesses, "for therefore," he declares, "I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me."

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, will perhaps take heart from the story of Jacob and Esau when he contemplates the all too public conflict which has divided British Jewry ever since the death of the distinguished progressive rabbi Hugo Gryn. Dr Sacks, the leader of the Orthodox community which embraces the majority of affiliated Jews in Britain, did not take part in Rabbi Gryn's funeral service last year, and was promptly criticised by members of the Reform movement. Now Dr Sacks has agreed to attend the secular memorial gathering for Rabbi Gryn and has come under fire from the conservative wing of his own United Synagogue, whose organ, the *Jewish Tribune*, has accused him of aiding Reform Judaism's "quest for recognition".

The Chief Rabbi replies that the memorial meeting will take place under the auspices of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Council of Christians and Jews, of which he is president and which Rabbi Gryn strongly supported. Although this dispute may appear obscure and unedifying to Jews and gentiles alike, it raises profound and unavoidable questions. Orthodox, Reform and liberal Jews do not agree on the interpretation of God's law, and none of them takes theological differences lightly. The history of rabbinical Judaism is one of dialectical exegesis. God's purposes only become clear through debate; and sometimes honest and learned scholars will disagree. A small minority of Orthodox Jews rejects dialogue with other Jewish denominations, and for that matter other faiths, as conferring legitimacy on heresy and idolatry. But Dr Sacks surely represents the vast majority of his community in this unostentatious tribute to a man whose endurance in Auschwitz bore eloquent witness to Jewish survival. In life, they shared in commemorating the Holocaust: it would be absurd for that partnership of common humanity to be sundered in death.

If the story of Jacob and Esau teaches us anything, it is that reconciliation is always possible between brothers; far more unites the Jews of this country than divides them. The great enemy of reconciliation is not hatred, but fear. The historian Bernard Wasserstein has warned of "the withering away of Judaism as a spiritual presence in the lives of most Jews in Europe". Some Orthodox Jews react to this danger by retreating into a spiritual ghetto. By reaching out to other members of the extended Jewish family, the Chief Rabbi has shown that he, at least, is ready to face European Judaism's greatest challenge. Before Jacob was reconciled with Esau, he had first to wrestle with the angel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Heath rebuts charges of misleading public on Europe

From Sir Edward Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Conservative)

Sir, It is a pity that Lord Beloff, formerly Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford, did not address himself to the historical facts in his letter of January 15 (printed under the false heading "Britain's goals on joining Market") rather than indulging in suppositional fantasies which bear no relationship to the political and economic facts of life.

Britain never did set out to join "a market". We negotiated with three communities, the Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the Atomic Energy Agency, each of which was far broader and deeper from the outset than a market. Together they have now become the European Union.

I opened negotiations with the Six in Paris in October 1962 with an application for membership of the Treaty of Rome, the introductory paragraph of which runs "determined to establish the foundations of an ever closer union among the European peoples".

I stated: "In saying that we wish to join the EEC, we mean that we desire to become full, wholehearted and active members of the European Community in its widest sense and to go forward with you in the building of a new Europe."

In my conclusion I said: "We in the United Kingdom will regard the successful conclusion of these negotiations as a point of departure, not as the end of the road." This speech was published in full and circulated by the Government as a White Paper.

In my speech to the Ministers of Western European Union in April 1962 I stated: "... you yourselves have decided that those who want to join the Economic Communities as full members must also join the Political Union. I am sure that this was the right decision. If this European Union is going to achieve the great things which we confidently expect of it then, in our view, it must be political as well as economic. As members we should want to strengthen its political development." This was also published as a White Paper.

The negotiations lasted for 16 months. At each stage I reported to the press in Brussels and at the airports, followed by a full statement to the House of Commons, accompanied by questions. These were spaced out by full debates. All of this received immense publicity in the press, on radio and television. There can, therefore, be no justification for anyone to claim that they were not given the fullest information.

After my Government reached agreement with the Six in 1970 the results were published in full in a White Paper which was soon widely read, and the shorter version of which was delivered to every household. The consequent debate in the House of Commons lasted for six full days. My party had a free vote at the end and 69 Labour members refused to observe their three-line whip and our majority in the debate was 112.

My last words in winding up the debate were "... tonight when this House endorses this Motion many millions of people right across the world will rejoice that we have taken our rightful place in a truly United Europe."

The referendum vote organised three years later by the Labour Government supported what we had done with a massive two-to-one majority. Why then should Lord Beloff bother us with his suppositions? The structure of the Union is *sui generis*. There has been nothing like it before and it will develop its union further in its own way. We make a contribution to it when we choose to do so, as one of the four major powers in it.

There is no sense in complaining of "laws from outside our borders" when our political leaders will have played a full part in the making of them; nor should we be indignant at only having one representative on the European Court of Justice, which is the same as we have on all other international courts outside the Union.

Lord Beloff also appears to be suffering from selective loss of memory when he winds up by writing that "policies dreamed up elsewhere could ruin the livelihoods of many of your fellow citizens". Surely he must have heard the present Government declaring that, after over 20 years in the Community, Britain has the best employment record in the Union?

It is Lord Beloff, unfortunately like so many others in Britain today, who is suffering the inferiority complex which makes him want to get out of the Union. Those of us who worked for our membership and continue to support it have complete confidence that we can fully play one of the leading parts in the ever closer union of the future.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HEATH,
House of Commons.
January 16.

Definition of new bugging powers in the Police Bill

From the Chairman of the Bar Council and others

Sir, Michael Howard (letter, January 10) asserts that the Police Bill strikes the right balance between giving law-enforcement agencies the ability to use up-to-date technology and providing effective safeguards against abuse [see letters, January 8, 14]. It does not.

The Bill extends police powers to eavesdrop on the private conversations of anyone who speaks to a lawyer, journalist or doctor. They do not have to be the subject of, or even connected to, an investigation.

The Police Bill would allow the police covertly to enter, search and place listening devices in the offices of lawyers, doctors and journalists. The Bill undermines clients' right to confidential communication with their lawyers, and has no provision protecting confidential communications held with journalists, health professionals and others. The Bill does not even require the police to obtain judicial authorisation before these powers can be used.

The Home Secretary argues that there will be a new avenue for redress for complaints, to a commissioner, but obviously in most cases the individual will not be aware that there has been covert surveillance. Where surveillance is discovered the commissioner can only consider a complaint on narrow judicial-review grounds and will not be able to give reasons for any decision. The Bill also prevents the commissioner's decisions being questioned in court.

We welcome the amendments to the Bill tabled by the Labour Party (report, January 17), which broadly meet our concerns. Those proposed by the Government do not.

We hope that these serious defects in the Police Bill can be remedied during report stage in the House of Lords on January 20. Failure to do so will have profound implications for us all.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT OWEN
Chairman, Bar Council,
TONY GIRLING
(President, Law Society),
JOHN WADHAM
(Director, Liberty),
c/o Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
January 17.

From the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police

Sir, I find the statement in your leader of January 14, "A Bill too far", that my colleagues and I "are bound to be less sensitive to the rights of the individual than a judge" to be little short of offensive. I, for one, welcome the safeguard of independent scrutiny by a commissioner and, as at present, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Matters of such seriousness do not pass "under my nose".

Incidentally, the inference in your article that evidence obtained by intrusive surveillance may not, under the present law, be used in court is incorrect: I know of at least five of my colleagues who have given evidence of this nature which has been accepted by the judge.

For my part, I follow the guidelines on evidence rigorously, knowing the decision may be scrutinised in court. Furthermore, I have operational command of this force and believe this to be very much an operational matter, for which I can be held accountable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GIFFARD,
Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police,
Staffordshire Police Headquarters,
Cannock Road, Stafford.

From Sir James Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside Police

Sir, Lord Alexander ("A Bill that subverts the rule of law", January 16) gives a misleading and inaccurate assessment of the proposals under Clauses 91-97 of the Police Bill.

No one doubts the very genuine concerns of those who rightly wish to see in place procedures that recognise and defend the civil liberty of our citizens. There clearly needs to be a balance between the powers of the State to combat serious crime and individual freedoms through a proper and accountable system. In my view the Bill achieves such an aim.

Lord Alexander broadly dismisses the role of the commissioner, which is a vital and necessary safeguard, perhaps to support his misleading contention that the "police are to be judges in their own cause". Nothing could be further from the truth.

Lord Alexander, a former chairman of the Bar Council, clearly has little experience or understanding of the practical considerations surrounding the use of police tactics and of the need for the Police Service to act decisively and expediently against those responsible for increasing and disturbing levels of serious crime. He admits that "wide powers may in some cases be necessary" to fight this battle. Experience has shown over many years that these powers are vital and that any changes to current proposals will cause serious damage to our capacity to combat serious crime.

Yours faithfully,
JIM SHARPLES,
Chief Constable, Merseyside Police
(President, Association of
Chief Police Officers, 1995-96),
Merseyside Police,
PO Box 59, Liverpool L69 1JD.
January 17.

Petrol prices

From Mr Kenneth Grundey

Sir, I have noticed that the price of petrol at garages near my home seems to be converging on a single figure (60.9p for premium unleaded). At the same time, at least two of the major retailers are promising not to charge higher prices than local rivals.

It occurs to me that promises not to charge less than rival retailers are not inconsistent with tacit agreement between major retailers not to compete on price. Is the consumer being taken for a ride?

Yours etc,
KENNETH GRUNDEY,
25 Amersham Hill Drive,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
January 17.

Mezzanine melodies

From Mrs Carol Tullo

Sir, On reading of the new "crossover" chart (letters, January 15) I was reminded that at Christmas I was given a CD of the type that features in the chart. On asking my brother if he had ever heard of the musician (who was new to me), he replied that it was a good example of what he called "superior lift music".

This admirably descriptive term of art has entered our family vocabulary.

Yours faithfully,
CAROL TULLO,
38 Friern Park, N12.
January 16.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Mirror, mirror

From Dr Anne-Carole Chamier

Sir, For years I have had to travel with a heavy magnifying mirror in my luggage because hotels and clubs rarely provide one. Cheap, lightweight versions are worse than useless. There must be a substantial proportion of travellers with less than perfect eyesight who would welcome the provision of a glass that would enable them to apply make-up or shave with ease.

If it were too costly to make a magnifying mirror a fixture in every bathroom, a few portable ones could be made available on request. For many of us they are not a luxury, but a necessity.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAROLE CHAMIER,
Achandunie House,
Ardross,
By Alness, Ross and Cromarty.
January 16.

In the steps of Todd

From Dr D. H. Marrian

Sir, As a "Toddler" myself, I enjoyed Dr Sharp's letter (January 16) about the late Lord Todd.

I also recall that, in 1962, The Chemical Society set a Christmas competition to compose a Chemist's Prayer along the lines of the Fisherman's Prayer. Alex, who had been a fisherman, was amused to read one of the entries:

Lord give me leave to build a lab
So large that when I've trod
Its vasty naves and aisles I'll think
I'm in thy house — Oh Todd!

Yours etc,
DENIS MARRIAN,
Trinity College, Cambridge.
January 16.

From law to pulpit

From Mrs Breda Smith

Sir, What a joy to read the article on William Agley ("From the law to the pulpit", January 13).

So often nowadays we hear the bad news from the Roman Catholic Church. It was so good to read of a young man who has changed career and gone into the priesthood with his eyes and mind open.

I pray that he will continue to be open about difficulties he will face, in particular the issue of celibacy. I hope he will continue to find emotional support from his non-sexual friendships.

William, be assured of a place in my prayers.

Yours sincerely,
BREDA SMITH,
15 Farm End,
Grove, Wantage, Oxfordshire.
January 15.

Undercover message?

From Mrs Beryl Wakefield

Sir, My daughters and I have noticed an annoying feature on our recent purchases of Marks & Spencer briefs. For countless years the labels have been stitched into the righthand seam — a quick guide when dressing in a hurry. But last summer the labels moved to the left.

With an election pending, is this a subtle hint to thousands of British women?

Yours etc,
BERYL WAKEFIELD,
56 Wissage Road,
Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Author defends an unbiased 'Eagle'

From Mr Jack Higgins

Sir, Your excellent report on the German war with Hollywood (January 14) unfairly includes my novel, *The Eagle Has Landed*, among your examples of portrayals of the typical "Hollywood Nazi".

Eagle went completely against the trend in war novels in its approach. When my publisher asked me what it was going to be about I told him that German paratroopers disguised as a Polish squadron in the SAS were to parachute in to kidnap Winston Churchill, who was spending a quiet weekend in Norfolk.

My publisher told me it was the worst idea he had ever heard of: how can you have a bunch of Nazis trying to get Churchill? You've no heroes. The public will never go for it. He then put the phone down.

The point was that, based on my own experiences on security duties on the East German border where, owing to lack of troops, we had to employ many German veterans of the Second World War, I realised that only a minority of Germans had been members of the Nazi Party and that millions had simply been called up, just like us, to fight for their country with no option. In other words my novel was about good men fighting for a rotten cause.

The results were exceptional: a novel published in 58 languages, republished in Moscow and Peking again last year, 26 million copies all told. Interestingly enough, I have also received over the years many letters from both Germans and those of German extraction, saying thanks for showing that it was possible for a German soldier to be both decent and honourable.

May I add that the enduring, possibly unique, success of the film on TV around the world speaks for itself.

Yours faithfully,
JACK HIGGINS,
Septembertide,
Mont de la Rocque,
St Aubin, Jersey, CI.
January 14.

Chester Cathedral

From Mr John Makinson

Sir, Your report (News in brief, January 13) might suggest that the replacement of the nave floor in Chester Cathedral is an act of vandalism. Far from it. Quite simply, the floor is worn out. It has been patched and re-patched — frequently in concrete — to such an extent that further partial repair is no longer sensible.

Much as the Dean and Chapter, and the Fabric Committee, respect the aims of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the cathedral is not a deserted monument, but an active centre of worship. The floor must be made even and safe for the many worshippers and visitors, about a million last year.

As for the heating, congregations in the 21st century will expect a warm church — and if Mr Gavin Stamp had sat through a service during the past fortnight, even he might have wished for it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MAKINSON
(Secretary,
Cathedral Fabric Committee),
8 Lache Lane, Chester.
January 14.

Bide-a-wee

From Mrs Stephen Morse

Sir, You report (January 14) that the proposed retirement home for pets to be built in New York is "believed to be the first of its kind in the world".

For many years there has been, on the outskirts of The Hague a "tehuis voor bejaarde dieren" — in other words, a "home for elderly animals". I do not suppose it is so lavishly equipped as the one in New York promises to be, but I am certain that the animals there receive plenty of tender loving care — which is probably more important to them.

Yours faithfully,
LORNA MORSE,
16 Bateman Mews, Cambridge.
January 14.

Winning colours

From Mr Alan Shuback

Sir, Instead of changing their kit every few years, the England football team (report, January 13) might take a hint from baseball's New York Yankees, who have retained their identity as well as their winning style without ever having reverted to uniform changes in search of new revenue.

The ubiquitous Yankee cap, surely the single most popular item of sporting gear in the world, has remained unchanged for nearly 80 years.

Moreover, the Yankee uniform — white, with navy-blue pinstripes and a navy "NY" logo over the heart — is virtually the same as Babe Ruth wore in 1923, the year the Yankees first won the World Series.

Since that date the Yankees have won the World Series 23 times, while England, with its ever-changing kit, have managed just a single World Cup title.

Respectfully yours,
ALAN SHUBACK,
313 West 75th Street,
New York, NY 10023.
January 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 17: The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 17: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Home Farm Trust, this morning visited Old Quarries, Avening, Tetbury, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Her Royal Highness later visited Stonehouse Community Centre, Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Home Farm Trust, afterwards visited Frocester Manor, Frocester, Stonehouse.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon visited the Cheltenham Citizens Advice Bureau, 14 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham.

The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening visited the Roses Theatre, Sun Street, Tewkesbury, to celebrate their Twenty First Birthday and was received by Colonel Richard Cornwell-Rogers (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

YORK HOUSE,
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 17: The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Binns on assuming command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Le Brun on relinquishing the appointment.

Royal engagement

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as Patron of Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v Wales international rugby match at Murrayfield at 2.45.

The Society of Schoolmasters

The Society of Schoolmasters is a registered charity and helps retired teachers and their dependants in need. The Society was founded after a meeting of Headmasters on January 12, 1797, in the former Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand. To mark the bicentenary members of the Committee attended Eucharist nearby at St Clement Danes on January 12, 1997, and afterwards had luncheon at the Lyceum Tavern. The Secretary, Doltons Farm, Woburn MK17 9HX, can send details to potential donors or recipients.

Barrow Hills School

Easter Term began on January 8 and ends on March 26. The St Joseph's Technology Centre was opened by His Eminence Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, OSB, on January 16. Open Day will be held on February 8 and the entrance examinations will be held on February 11. The Senior production of *Treasure Island* will take place on March 21.

Church news

The Rev Roger Broughton: to be Chaplain of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover (Canterbury).

The Rev Michael Cain, Curate, St Francis, New Mackworth: to be Vicar, St Luke's, Derby (Derby).

The Rev Dr Neil Burgess, Director of Clergy Training (Southwell): to be also Associate Priest, Newark Team Ministry: same diocese.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce to be Deputy Chief of Defence Procurement (Operations) and to remain as Master General of the Ordnance from December 20, 1996.

MAJOR GENERAL
Brigadier J D Stokoe to be Deputy Chief of Staff Headquarters Land Command in the rank of major-general from January 6.

Major-General D Pigott to be Director General Development and Doctrine from January 6.

Major-General M D Jackson to be Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of lieutenant-general from January 13.

Brigadier P A Chambers to be Senior Army Member, Royal College of Defence Studies, in the rank of major-general from December 20, 1996.

Latest wills

Ezra John **Morris**, of Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left £9,639,202 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Bernard **Cassel**, of Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire, left £1,570,063 net.

Joseph **Rigg**, of Norden, Rochdale, Lancashire, left £1,364,114 net.
He left £5,000 to Rochdale Rugby Union Football Club and £1,000 to Norden Cricket Club.

Leslie **Burdett**, of London SW4, left £1,088,894 net.

Frederick **Goodman**, of London W9, left £1,529,511 net.

Jack Voyna Leslie **Kemp**, of Seaview, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,240,000 net.

Linda Audrey **Michael**, of Pontardawe, Swansea, West Glamorgan, left estate valued at £1,035,116 net.

Appointment

Sir Alistair Grant to be a Trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Dinners

Royal Society of Medicine
The Lord Chief Justice and Lady Bingham of Cornhill were received by Dr Paul Knapman, President of the Section of Clinical Forensic Medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine, and Mrs Knapman, at the annual dinner given by the society last night at 1 Wimpole Street. Sir Christopher Paine, president, and Lady Paine were among the guests.

Arbitrators' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were present at a dinner given by the Arbitrators' Company last night at the Mansion House. Mr Douglas Smith, master, presided. The Lord Mayor accepted a cheque for his appeal for the Cancer Research Campaign. Mr Clifford Dann and Mr Ian Menzies, senior warden, also spoke.

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland celebrated 150 years of the use of ether and chloroform in anaesthesia at a dinner on Friday, January 17, 1997, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London. The President, Dr W.L.M. Baird, and Mrs Baird welcomed the guests who included:

Baroness Cumberlege, Dr Richard Smith, Guest Speaker, Professor R D Miller, San Francisco, Ohmeda Health Care Lecturer, Dr and Mrs R S Atkinson, Dr and Mrs A I J Brain, Professor Sir Donald and Lady Campbell, Professor T Cecil Gray, Professor T E J Healy, Sir Donald and Lady Irvine, Dr and Mrs S M Lyons, Dr A Macara, Dr and Mrs J F Nunn, Mr and Mrs E E Phillipp, Professor and Mrs C Prys-Roberts, Professor and Mrs M Rosen, Sir Keith and Lady Sykes, Professor and Mrs M D A Vickers.
The Association also entertained as guests the Presidents of the Societies of Anaesthesia of the European Countries together with their Chairman, Professor G Rolly (Belgium), and his wife.

Weekend birthdays

Dr David Bellamy, botanist, writer and broadcaster, is 64 today; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, will be 42 tomorrow

TODAY:
Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 64; Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 70; Mr Peter Beardsley, footballer, 35; Sir Michael Bett, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 62; Mr John Boorman, film director, 64; Mr Raymond Briggs, illustrator, 63; Professor M.J. Brown, clinical pharmacologist, 46; Mr David Burke, Chief Constable, North Yorkshire, 58; Mr J.R. Carr, former chairman, Countryside Commission of Scotland, 70; Mr Kevin Costner, actor, 42; Mr Richard Dunwoody, jockey, 33; the Hon Sir Rocco Forte, chairman, Sir Rocco Forte and Associates, 52; Sir William Goodhart, QC, 64; Mr D.J. Grant, Lord-Lieutenant of Co Durham, 75; Sir James Hann, former chairman, Scottish Nuclear, 64; Sir William Harding, diplomat, 70; Sir Robert Hicks, MP, 59; Sir Terence Higgins, MP, 69; Mr John Hougham, chairman, Acas, 60; Mr David Howell, MP, 61; Mr John Hume, MP, MEP, 60; Mr Edward James, diplomat, 80; Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former chairman, National Trust, 76; Mr Paul Keating, former Prime Minister of Australia, 53; Sir Martin Laing, chairman, John Laing, 55; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 73; Sir Nigel Strutt, former chairman, Strutt and Parker (Farms), 81; Sir Walter Verco, former secretary, Order of the Garter, 90; Sir Ralph Verney, landowner, 82; Sir Clive Whitmore, civil servant, 62.

TOMORROW:
Mr Peter Atkinson, MP, 54; Mr Julian Barnes, writer, 51; Miss Nina Bawden, novelist, 72; the Earl of Carnarvon, 73; His Honour Sir Jonathan Clarke, 67; Mr Michael Crawford, actor and singer, 55; Mr Bernard Dunstan, painter, 77; Mr Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 31; Mr Phil Everly, singer, 58; Mr Richard Francis, racehorse trainer, 51; Mr W.K. Goldsmith, company director, 59; Mr William Hayden, former chairman, Jaguar, 68; Mr Wayne Hemingway, fashion designer, 36; Mr Hans Hotter, bass baritone, 88; Sir Alex Jarratt, former chairman, Smiths Industries, 73; Mr Richard Lester, film director, 65; Mr E.C.S. Macpherson, chief executive, 3i Group, 55; Brigadier Helen Meechie, former director, WRAC, 59; Mr David Newbigging, former chairman, Rentokil Group, 63; Mr Nigel Nicolson, author, 80.
Mr Robert Palmer, singer, 48; Miss Dolly Parton, country music singer and actress, 51; Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General, United Nations, 77; Mr Bryan Pringle, actor, 62; Mr Malcolm Reilly, rugby league coach, 49; the Duke of St Albans, 58; Mr John Spencer, former Headmaster, Berkhamsted School, 74; Sir John Stanley, MP, 55; Mr Gary Titley, MEP, 47; Mr Keith Topley, former senior master, Queen's Bench Division, 61; Mr David Tredinnick, MP, 47; Mr Ivor Ward, television producer and director, 81; the Earl of Wemyss and March, KT, 85.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, philosopher, Bordeaux, 1689; Joseph Farwell Glidden, farmer, inventor of barbed wire, 1813; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Churchtown, Lancashire, 1825; Alexis Chabrier, composer, Ambert, France, 1841; Matthew Webb, first English Channel swimmer, Dawley, Shropshire, 1848; Ruben Darío, poet, Metapa, Nicaragua, 1867; A.A. Milne, children's writer and dramatist, London, 1882; Arthur Ransome, author, 1884; Antoine Pevsner, sculptor, Orël, Russia, 1886; Cary Grant, actor, Bristol, 1904; Danny Kaye, actor, Brooklyn, 1913.

DEATHS: Jan van Riebeck, surgeon and founder of Cape Town, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1677; Sir John Pringle, physician and President of the Royal Society 1772, London, 1782; John Tyler, 10th American President 1841-45, Richmond, Virginia, 1862; Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton, novelist and politician, Torquay, 1873; Rudyard Kipling, first British writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, 1907, London, 1936; Sir Cecil Beaton, photographer, Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, 1980.

Captain Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), 1778.

William of Prussia was proclaimed as the 1st German Emperor, 1871.

Captain Robert Scott and his expedition arrived at the South Pole, 1912.

The Versailles Peace conference opened, 1919.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: James Watt, inventor, Greenock, 1736; Auguste Comte, philosopher, founder of Positivism, Montpellier, 1798; Robert E. Lee, Confederate C-in-C in the American Civil War, Stratford, Virginia, 1807; Alfred Mynn, cricketer, Goudhurst, Kent, 1807; Edgar Allan Poe, writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1809; Sir Henry Bessemer, pioneer of steel production, Charlton, Hertfordshire, 1813; Paul Cézanne, painter, Aix-en-Provence, 1839; Augustine Birrell, politician and writer, Wavertree, Lancashire, 1850; Janis Joplin, rock singer, Texas, 1943.

DEATHS: Hans Sachs, poet and dramatist, Nuremberg, 1576; William Congreve, dramatist, London, 1729; Pierre Proudhon, socialist, Paris, 1865.

The first air raid on Britain by German zeppelins in the First World War, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, 1915.

The Japanese invaded Burma, 1942.

Mrs Indira Gandhi became India's first female Prime Minister, 1966.

The Institute of Mathematics

The following have been granted Chartered Mathematician status and Fellowship of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications: Dr M.H. Aliabadi, Mr R.N. Barkwill, Dr P.M. Beckett, Professor D. S. Broomhead, Dr C.T. Brown, Dr M. Burmester, Dr C.J. Chapman, Dr D.J. Corn, Mr A.J. Daw, Mr P.C. Devlin, Dr K. Farahmand, Professor A. Fokas, Mr J.T. Glover, Dr J.P. Grubert, Professor S. Haberman, Professor K.S. Hindi, Dr N.A. Hoffmann, Mr J.A. Howarth, Dr A.C. King, Dr M. Koijam, Mr W.K. Leung, Dr J.D.M. Linn, Dr A.C. McIntosh, Dr P. Oliver, Mr D.J. Parks, Mr N.D. Pickles, Mr I.A. Robertson, Professor Y. Sergeev, Ms S.A. Starkings, Professor I.A. Stewart, Professor C.M. Strange, Dr N.R. Todd, Dr J.J.R. Williams, Dr J.M. Williams, Dr D.C. Wood, Dr P.D. Yardley.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain M.E.J. Burton, RA, and Miss M.C. Ewer
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Major General and Mrs Edmund Burton, of Chester, Cheshire, and Michelle, daughter of Major General and Mrs Graham Ewer, of Andover, Hampshire.

Mr L.F. Driscoll and Miss K.A-M. Green
The engagement is announced between Lee Francis, elder son of Mr and Mrs Lee Driscoll, of Philadelphia, USA, and Katherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Green, of Hognaston, Derbyshire.

Mr W.R. Fenton and Miss E.L. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Rupert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ramsay Fenton, of Cross Hills, North Yorkshire, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Shaw, of Walton, Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

Mr D. Hanks and Mrs M.C. Cearley
The engagement is announced between Dale Hanks, of St Catherine's Court, London, W4, and Marion Carter Cearley, of Bedford Road, London, W4.

Mr S.J. Shrimpton and Miss L.K. Farnsworth
The engagement is announced between Simon Shrimpton, of Highgate, London, and Lucy Farnsworth, also of Highgate, London.

Mr D.J. Tarsh and Miss D.M. Young
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Tarsh, of Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Aileen Young and the late Mr Reginald Young, of Garsington, Oxfordshire.

Mr P. Tucker and Miss A.S. Bisset
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs William Tucker, of Waterlooville, Hampshire, and Anna Sophia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bisset, of Rush Green, Hertford.

Mr R. Tulino and Miss A.R. Falcone
The engagement is announced between Raffaele, only son of Mr and Mrs Vincenzo Tulino, of Surrey, and Antonella, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Salvatore Falcone, of London.

RHS annual awards

By Alan Toogood
Horticulture Correspondent

THE Royal Horticultural Society offers a number of awards each year to acknowledge and encourage excellence in horticulture.

This year marks the centenary of the highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour. The society has announced the recipients of the VMH for 1996:

Mr John Hillier, expert on hardy plants, particularly trees and shrubs, and president of Hillier Nurseries, of Ampfield, Hampshire; Mrs Penelope Hobhouse, of Bettiscombe, Bridport, Dorset, internationally renowned gardener and horticultural consultant, designer, writer and lecturer; and Mr Charles Notcutt, the chairman and group managing director of Notcutts Nurseries, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, which is also celebrating its centenary this year.

The Lawrence Medal for the best exhibit shown to the society during the year has been awarded to Hillier Nurseries for its exhibit of trees, shrubs, roses and ground cover plants at the 1996 Chelsea Flower Show.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Epiphany

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Choral E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Modal Euch (M White), Glorious is thy Name (Mozart), The Dean; 3.15 Choral E, Wood in C minor, Almighty and Everlasting God (Gibbons).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Ven T Raphael; 4 Choral E & Ceremony of Carols, Wood in E, Ceremony of Carols (Britten).

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 Service to commemorate Defence of Rorke's Drift.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Adoramus te Christe (Lassus), Missa Brevis (Carter), Ave Maria (Saint Saens), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Blair in B minor, Lo! Star-led chiefs (Croich), Canon J Simpson.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 9.45 Boreol Weddi, Benedictus Emynau; 11 Choral Euch, Ireland in C, O God who by the leading of a star (Attwood), Jubilate Deo (Britten); 3.15 Choral E, Moeran in D, Ascribe unto the Lord; 5 Cymun Bendigaid, Emynau.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Tria sunt munera (Esquivel), The Archdeacon; 3.15 E, Wood in D, God is with us (Tavener); 6.30 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev D Staple.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Fantasia in F (Mozart), Rev B Brown; 3 E, Carlisle Service (Lloyd), Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Acting Provost; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in E, Blessed are those servants (Moeran), Rev I Moody; 6 Choral E, Dyson in F, The Shepherds' Farewell (Berlioz), Rev J Jones.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 Choral Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Rt Rev W Siba; 11.30 Choral M with Baptism, Te Deum & Jubilate (Stanford in B flat), O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E, Howells in G, Like as the Hart (Howells); 6.30 Evening, Canon T Dennis.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Jubilate (Britten), Canon Webster; 11.15 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Omnes de Saba (Handl), The Precentor; 6 E & College Prayers, Purcell in Bb, Lo! Star-led chiefs (Crotch).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Missa Salve Regina (Langlais), O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore), Love one another (Wesley), Rev M Fuller; 3 German Lutherans; 5 E, O Lord increase our faith (Loosemore), Stanford in A, Behold the Lamb of God (Handel).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Perry; 10 M, Boyce in C, The Blessed Son of God (Vaughan Williams), Canon R Coppin; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev G Carter; 3.30 E, The Fifth Service (Tomkins), Verbum caro factum est (Hassler).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Rev D Green; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Jubilate in E flat (Berkeley), Jubilate in E flat (Britten), O magnum mysterium (Poulenc), The Dean; 3.45 E, Bullock in D, Susanni (arr. Trepte).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Leighton in D, Tantum ergo (Fauré), The Dean; 11.15 M, Te Deum (Ireland in F), Look up sweet babe (Berkeley), Canon D Ison; 3 E, Dyson in D, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers); 6.30 Evening, There shall a star (Mendelssohn), Preb J Scott.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher; 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in G & B flat, O salutaris hostia (Elgar), Canon J Schofield; 11.15 M, Jubilate (Rutter), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc), Canon D Bryant; 6.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), O magnum mysterium (Gabrieli), Mr P Jenkins.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Laudate nomen Domini (Tye), Stanford in G, O salutaris hostia (Gowland), The Chancellor; 11.30 M, Jackson in G, Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons); 3.30 E, The Queen's Service (Stanford), O ye little flock (Amner), Rev J Summers.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Euch, The bells of St Martin's (Paterson), Like as the hart (Howells), Fr D Campbell; 4 Choral E, Wise in E flat, Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach), The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), Videntes stellam (Poulenc), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Stanford in G, When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Presentation of RAF Chorister Medal, Rev M Loveless; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, When Jesus Christ was yet a child (Tchaikovsky), The Chancellor; 3.45 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Choral E, Rev G Davies; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8, 12.15 Holy Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Here O my Lord, I see thee face to face (Whitlock), Rev M Tomlinson; 3.30 Council of churches week of prayer for christian unity; 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), The Three Kings (Cornelius), Canon A Radcliffe; 6.30 E, Fauxbourdons (Byrd), Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Canon A Radcliffe.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), View me, Lord (Lloyd), Capt D Diaper; 6 Choral E, A Prayer of King Henry VI (Ley), Stanford in C, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Listen sweet dove (Ives), Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (Bach); 6.30 Wood in E flat no 2, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Coronation Mass, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rt Rev C O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton; 3.30 Rotary Club, Set me as a seal (Walton), Rt Rev W Westwood; 6 EP; 6.30 Healing & Reconciliation, Canon R Hanmer.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 Litany; 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Boyce in C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Mathias), The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Behold, how good and joyful (Vann).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion & Commissioning of Servers, Petersfield Mass (Mawby), Ave maris stella (Grieg), Canon J Hedger; 11 S Euch, The Call (Vaughan Williams), Darke in E, Prayer of Mother Teresa (Ferguson), Postlude in D minor (Stanford), The Provost; 6.30 E, Murrill in E, The Heavens are telling (Haydn), Canon A Wilkinson.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, The Dean; 8.30 M; 9.30 Parish Euch, Darke in F, Gloria (Perrin), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.30 Choral Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina); 12.30 Euch, Dean Leslie-Weatherhead; 5.30 E, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Wood in D), Gaudent in coelis (Victoria), Rev P Driver.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Te Deum (Howells) Collegium Regale, Myrrh frankincense and gold (Ridout); 10.30 S Euch & Methodist Covent Service, Darke in E, Myrrh frankincense and gold (Ridout), Rev K Lemar; 3.15 E, All poor men and humble (Kelly), Wood in F, Look up sweet babe (Berkeley).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Christoper Love; 10 Euch, Sarum Mass (Leighton), Lully, lulla (Leighton), Christopher Love; 11.30 M, Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Jubilate in B flat (Stanford), O'er the hill and o'er the dale (carol), 3 E, Murrill in E, When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem (Mendelssohn).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Omnes de Saba (Handl) The Provost; 11.45 Text for the Day; 6.30 The Epiphany Procession.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev D Painter; 11 Choral Euch, Five part mass (Byrd), Illuminare Jerusalem (J Weir), The Lamb (Tavener), Rev D Painter; 3 Choral E, Jackson in G, Almighty God which by the leading of a star (Bull), Rev H Cunliffe.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, O sing joyfully (Britten), Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), The Librarian; 6 E, Wood in F, We praise thee, O God (Stanford), The Curate.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Baxter; 9.15 Parish Communion, Non Nobis Domine (Byrd), Rev C Ogle; 11 Solemn Euch, Wakefield Service (Bielby), Rev C Hawke; 4 Evening, Collegium regale (Wood), Almighty God, which by the leading of a star (Bull), Canon H Barr.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ven R Acworth; 11.30 M & Holy Baptism, Stanford in B flat, O most merciful (Bullock); 3 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), When Jesus was our Lord (Mendelssohn), Very Rev R Lewis

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Short Service (Gibbons), O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Canon D Gray; 11.15 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), O sacrum convivum, Snr Dr A Weber; 3 E, Magdalen Service (Leighton), Praise our Lord all ye gentiles (Byrd), Rev Dr A Campbell; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening, Rev B Fenton.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Jubilate (Collegium Regale), A spotless rose (Howells), Rev C Stewart; 11.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3.30 Welcome Service.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 10 S Euch, Missa Festiva (Peeters), Rev M Marsden; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holst), Jubilate (Walton); 4 E & Admission of Choristers, Brewer in D, Sing we merrily (Campbell), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Beati quorum via (Stanford), Rev E Glyn; 3.30 Choral E, Lo! Star-led chiefs (Crotch).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Y Deon; 9.30 Parish Euch, The minor Canon; 11.15 Choral M, Noble in B minor, Awake thou wintry earth (Bach), The Dean; 6 Choral E, Brewer in E flat, Behold the tabernacle (Harris), The Canon.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev R Davey; 10 S Euch, Darke in E, The Call (Vaughan Williams), O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), The Provost; 11.30 Choral M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré); 3.30 Choral E, Wood in E flat, Faire is the heaven (Harris).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Rev B Longley.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 Morning HC, Missa brevis (Mathias), The Minister; 11.30 Morning, Surge illuminare (Palestrina), The Minister; 6 St Giles at Six, Edinburgh University Brass Ensemble; 8 Evening, Rev K Watson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Kodaly), The Precentor; 3.30 Choral E, Jesus Service (Mathias).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, Agnus-Dei (Morley), Make a joyful noise (Mathias), Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening, Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Canon M Saward; 3.15 E, Gray in F minor, Lo star-led chiefs (Crotch), Rev D Hilborn.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water, Kievan and traditional polyphony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Rev I Davies; 6 E & B, The Fourth Service (Batten), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Membership Sunday, Preb R Bewes; 6.30 Membership Sunday with Orchestra, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass for four voices (Tallis), Lauda Sion (Palestrina), O Salutaris (Wilton)

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Mary's Magnificat (Carter), Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr D Royce.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Mr J Jennings; 11 Morning, The Bishop of London; 5, 7 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, 11 Canon A Harvey; 6.30 Monsignor G Stack.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers, Scheidt Jauchzet Gott alle Land (Vivaldi), Rev G Jenks.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Triste depart (Lassus), The Rector; 6.30 E, Third Service (Tomkins), Reges Tharsis (Sheppard), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Ireland in C), Missa brevis (Walton), Christ is the flower within my heart (Chapman), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Magnificat/Nunc Dimittis (Wood in F), The Three Kings (Cornelius), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Tribus miraculis (Palestrina), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Confirmation, Rev C Macleod; 6.30 Rev W Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Mass XII (Plainsong), Laudate Pueri Dominum (Mendelssohn), Ave verum (Fauré).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Ives), I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, D Purcell in E minor, In Epiphania (Palestrina).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Communion, Processional (Mathias), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, Turn back O Man (Holst), Rev J Hadley; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers), Rev M Fuller.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion; 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Josephi (Peeters), The Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky), Rev T Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass in G Minor (Vaughan Williams), Reges tharsis (Sheppard), Rev M Langham.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev B Schunemann; 9.45 Euch, Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors, Rev C [illegible]; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Mrs H [illegible].

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 11 HM, Missa brevis Cappella Regalis (Caesar), Archdeacon G Reid; 6 Solemn E & B, [illegible]

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill, NW1: 10.30 Parish Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Cantate Domino (Monteverdi), Rev [illegible]; 6 Taize.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Te Deum (Walford Davies in G), Jubilate (Thalben-Ball in B flat), O God who by the leading of a star (Attwood), Oswald Clarke.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa osculetur me (Lassus), Verbum caro factum est (Hassler), [illegible] hoc Deus (Byrd), Rev C Jones.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa cum jubilo (Duruflé), O salutaris hostia (Widor), [illegible] (Cochereau).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Te Deum (Chant), Benedictus (Bevin), Long long ago (Howells), Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Here is a little door (Howells), Rev W J Hester.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 M, Britten in C, When a goody fragrance flowing (arr McPhee), [illegible] When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 Stanford in Bflat, S Euch, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Te Deum Laudamus (Howells) Collegium Regale, Jubilate Deo (Howells) Collegium Regale, Surge illuminare (Palestrina), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Lo! Star-led Chiefs (Crotch), Band of the Irish Guards, Rev P Rutherford; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Omnes de Saba (Handl), Rev C French.

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Rend your hearts and not your garments, and turn back to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and ever constant. Joel 1 : 13

BIRTHS

BRIGGS - On 10th January 1997, to Ian and Philippa (née Rowley), a beautiful daughter, Louisa Charlotte.

CLAIBORNE - Jaquelin Robertson at The Portland Hospital Thomas and Lisa joyfully announce the arrival of Jack, a brother for Thomas.

DENNIS - On 10th January 1997, to Pauline (née Bees) and Stephen, a son, Nathan George, a brother for Bethan.

GILMOUR - On November 20th 1996, in New York, to Emma and Andrew, a son, Xan, brother for Archie.

HATVANY - On January 16th 1997, to Juliet and Ivan, twin daughters, Tessa and Claire, sisters for Imogen.

MIGLIC-BINSTED - On 10th January 1997 in Melbourne, Australia, to Lisa a son, Hugo Charles Emil.

MOSS - On 15th January 1997 at The Royal Free Hampstead to Sarah (née Blackstone) and Anthony, a son, Gideon Ben.

NELSON - On 3rd January 1997 in London, to Stephen and Catherine (née Badger), a son, William James Alexander.

PADOVAN - On January 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Francesca (née Perocco) and Marco, a beautiful son, Tobia.

ROGERS - On January 16th 1997, in Melbourne, to David and Sharon, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, a sister for Matthew Thomas.

BIRTHS

SAINT-LEGER - On 13th January at The Portland Hospital, to Sana and Stephen, a beautiful son, Thomas, brother to Sacha and Felix.

SCHAFFER - On 10th January at The Portland Hospital, to Danielle and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Robyn Mia.

SEALEY - On January 15th 1997, to Vanessa (née Oliver) and Andrew, a son, Christopher Edward.

STREET - On January 10th 1997, to Caroline (née White) and Nicholas, a daughter, Phoebe Charlotte Laidley, a sister for Amelia.

von BENZON - Zara Mariana, a lovely epiphany gift for her family.

WELZ - On 16th January 1997 at The Royal Free Hampstead to Ulrike (née Fritz) and Bernd, a daughter, Johanna.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - On January 16th Jessie Vida, widow of the Right Reverend W.L. Anderson, greatly loved and respected by all her family. "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die." Funeral 12 noon 28th January St Boniface, Woodgreen. Family flowers only at her request.

DEATHS

ARMITAGE - On January 10th 1997 at Bury St Edmunds Elizabeth (née Shepherd-Cross) OBE, wife of the late Godfrey. Her funeral service takes place in the West Chapel at Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January at 1 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired for Cancer Research c/o L. Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1NX.

ATKINSON - Jim. Peacefully, at Earl Haig Home, Edinburgh on January 13th 1997, James Edward Macartney Atkinson formerly of Alloa, beloved husband of Heather, dearly loved father and grandfather, composer of the reel of the 51st Highland Division. Private cremation at Falkirk at 11 am on Saturday January 18th 1997, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm at St John's Church, Alloa to which all friends are warmly invited.

BESSEY - Nicholas Edward, died January 14th 1997 at Hamble. Funeral to be held at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday January 22nd at 12.30 pm. No flowers, donations to R.N.L.I.

BREWIS - Hewitt Errington Lt. Col. (Retd.) on 21st December 1996 suddenly at home, beloved husband of Diana and much loved father and grandfather. The funeral service has taken place on the Isle of Man. Memorial Service at the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap, London EC3 on Tuesday, 18th March 1997 at 12 noon.

CARPENTER TURNER - On 15th January peacefully in Winchester Barbara widow of Wilfred, beloved mother of Robert and Clarissa. Loving grandmother to Luke, Jonathan, Matthew and Nancy. Funeral Service at Easton Parish Church, near Winchester on Thursday 23rd January at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to R.N.L.I. c/o Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU.

CHAPMAN - Peggy (M.B.E. née Goddard), formerly of Freshford, near Bath, widow of 'Bill' Chapman, died peacefully at Limpley Stoke, on 15th January in her 95th year. Cherished mother of Elizabeth, Richard and Mary; much loved mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. Funeral at St Peter's, Freshford, on Wednesday 22nd January at 2 pm. Family flowers only, but a donation to Barnardos c/o. Bowyer Ltd., 2 The Bullpit, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, tel: (01225) 863208.

CLARKE - On 14th January 1997 peacefully at home, Alan Charles William Vincent. Dearly loved husband of Marjorie and father of Peter, Suzanne and James. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the League of Friends of Bexhill Hospital, c/o Mummery, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill.

CROOKE - Jarmila (née Koenigsmark) aged 74 on January 15th. Funeral Enfield Crematorium, January 23rd at 9.30 am.

DALLISON - Leslie Herbert on January 16th at Paternoster Nursing Home, Waltham Abbey. Private cremation on Tuesday 28th January. Donations if desired to the Alzheimer's Disease Society.

CUNDY - Peacefully at Welbourn Hall Nursing Home on 16th January 1997, Joan Aileen aged 90 years, formerly Thornton (née Park). Funeral Service at St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton, on Thursday 23rd January at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations for St Helen's Church may be sent to R. Ash & Sons Funeral Directors, Bassingham, Lincoln, tel: (01522) 788220.

EVANS-GORDON - Georgina died peacefully on 16th January at The Manor House Residential Home, aged 100. Daughter of the late Col. Evans-Gordon and the Baroness Von Und Zu Egloffstein, will be very sadly missed by all who knew her. Donations if desired for the RSPCA to Murrell Cork Funeral Directors, Mundesley Road, North Walsham, Norfolk.

FOORT - Patrick suddenly but peacefully in his 80th year at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, on January 16th. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Enquiries to Carrells Funeral Service (01705) 486183.

HARRISON - Woodthorpe Jude, aged 81, peacefully in Charing Cross Hospital on January 16th. Beloved husband of Allie and father of Ian, Sue, Nick and Sarah and loving grandfather to their children. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Friday January 24th at 10am. Donations, if wished, to Scoliosis Association (UK), c/o Co-Operative Funeral Service, 162 King Street, London W6 0QU, tel: (0181) 748-2982.

HOLLINRAKE - On January 16th 1997, Dorothy Geraldine, aged 86 years of Painswick, Gloucestershire, dearly loved wife of Wilfred. The funeral service will take place at 2 pm on Friday January 24th at Gloucester Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations in her memory may be made to the Sue Ryder Home (Leckhampton), c/o Selim Smith & Co, 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham. Tel: (01242) 525383.

HOSKINS - Mary died peacefully 15th January. Funeral 24th January 4.15pm Putney Vale Crematorium. Donations to Trinity Hospice would be appreciated.

KOUHINE - Adam (Kivi) passed away suddenly on Tuesday 14th January. Dearly loved by his wife Christa and daughter Laura. Greatly missed by his cousins Jackie, Adam and his many friends. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory to The British Heart Foundation.

LESLIE-JONES - Suddenly at home in Stourton Caundle on 15th January 1997 Alison (née Ross) in her 76th year, dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral private. No flowers please but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o Peter Jackson Funeral Services, Mons, High Street, Henstridge, Somerset BA8 0RB, tel: (01963) 362570.

MARTIN - Major F.G.E., MC (Derick or Chota to his friends). Died peacefully 15th January in Exeter after a very short illness. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Family flowers only please. Donations to Royal Artillery Benevolent Fund. Funeral at Whitestone Parish Church 11 am, Thursday 23rd January, followed by private cremation. Truly an officer and a gentleman.

MAZUMDAR - Dr. Birendra Nath, on December 4th, 1996 at Torbay Hospital. A Colditz veteran, and wartime escapee. A brave and honourable man to whom duty, loyalty, morality and sincerity were cardinal virtues. Of abiding inspiration to his be-loved, loving and devoted family. Cremation took place on 10th December 1996 at Torbay.

MEREDITH - Wilfred Norman, aged 74, peacefully in hospital on January 15th, 1997, after a long illness fought with courage and fortitude. Dearly loved husband of Joan and wonderful father of Peter, Gillian and Jean and dear grandad of Samantha, Kathryn, Nicholas and Georgina. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday January 22nd at 10.30 am. No flowers. Donations to Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA, marked "In memory of Wilfred Meredith."

MILES - Malcolm John Miles on January 16th, aged 51, died peacefully after a short illness. Much loved husband of Ann and father of Alexander. Funeral to be held at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, 23rd January 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Catherine's Hospice, Malthouse Road, Southgate, Sussex. Enquiries to Peter A. Martin F/D, Crawley, Sussex (01293 544 608).

ORBACH - John Leo Louis, died peacefully at home on January 16th. Much loved husband, father, brother and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden, Kent at 10.30am on Wednesday 22nd January. Family flowers only, donations to Hospice in the Weald, A. Gardiner House, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

RICHARDSON - James Alexander 31st December 1996 peacefully in hospital after a long illness borne with great courage. Loving father of William and Mary and grandfather of Jamie, Robbie and Emma. Private service. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to Dr. John P. Glees Clinical Research Fund at The Royal Marsden Hospital and St George's Hospital, Royal Marsden NHS Trust, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey.

RICKARD - On January 14th 1997, Peter P.B. Rickard O.B.E. aged 76. Beloved husband of 50 years of Betty, loving father of Catherine, Jonathan and Sarah, and proud grandfather of Robert, Clare, Jack, Nicholas, William and Elizabeth. Funeral Service on Thursday, 23rd January at 3pm at St Michael's Church, Monkton Combe, Bath. Family flowers, and donations for Friends of St Martins Hospital in appreciation of their care and kindness, to G. Mannings & Sons Ltd, North Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HW.

ROSE - Lady Joan peacefully at home on 16th January. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving at St James Church, Muthill, on Wednesday 22nd January at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAILEY - Jonathan BSc RICS. Remembering our beloved son on his 37th birthday.

PUTT - Barbara, died 18th January 1996. Loved and remembered always by Bob, Sara, Lesley and Jan.

SIMON - May Rose January 19th 1985. Never forgotten, always missed. Ann.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

PELLY:FULLER - On 18th January 1947 at Killaloan Church, near Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, John to Patricia now of Worcestershire.

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CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HODGE, GC

Captain Alexander Hodge, GC, RNVR officer and former chairman of Standard Life Assurance, died in Edinburgh on January 4 aged 80. He was born on June 23, 1916.

It was while he was serving as a Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve sub-lieutenant in the aircraft carrier *Eagle* in the Indian Ocean in the spring of 1940 that Sandy Hodge won the George Cross for his brave rescue of several seriously injured seamen after a bomb had exploded below decks. At the time *Eagle* was steaming in the eastern Indian Ocean, flying armed reconnaissance patrols in the hope of catching German surface ships and submarines which had been reported in the area.

On March 14, 1940, a Swordfish patrol had returned to its parent ship and the aircraft were being unloaded of their bombs, which were struck down to the bomb room via a chute. At this point the bombs should all have been rendered harmless. But the somewhat complicated strike mechanism of that type of weapon made it often difficult to determine whether this had been done, and one of the 250 bombs remained armed, unknown to the handling party. Halfway down the chute the bomb slipped from the grasp of its handlers and fell down into the bomb room, where it exploded.

A dozen of the handling party were killed instantly and many more were grievously injured. The bulkhead between the bomb room and the adjacent boiler room was punctured in many places by flying fragments, but luckily *Eagle's* robust construction prevented more serious damage. She had originally been built as a battleship for the Chilean Navy before being converted as an aircraft carrier.

Hodge, who was responsible for that part of the ship, immediately went to the bomb room, which was full of fumes and at a blistering temperature. Notwithstanding the danger of further explosions, Hodge groped his way into the compartment in pitch darkness and led several badly injured men to safety. He then returned to the bomb room where he found that one man was crushed under two heavy bombs which he could not move single-handed. Summoning help, Hodge eventually managed to move the bombs, extricate the man and have him conducted to safety. He then returned to the bomb room again and remained there until he was satisfied that there was no one else left alive in the compartment. Having done all this, he went back to the sub-lieutenants' mess where, totally exhausted, he promptly fell asleep in an armchair.

He was gazetted as having won the Empire Gallantry Medal, but this was immediately translated into the newly-instituted George Cross, and it was the insignia of the GC with which he was presented.

Alexander Mitchell Hodge was born at Blairgowrie, Pethshire, and educated at Fettes College and Edinburgh University, where he took an MA in 1936 and an LLB in 1938. Having qualified as a solicitor, he had been intending to practise, but Britain's betrayal of the Czechs at Munich disturbed him deeply and, feeling that war was inevitable, he joined the RNVR in Edinburgh.

After leaving *HMS Eagle*, which went into dry dock in Singapore after her mishap, Hodge served during the central years of the war on escort duty in the corvette *Saxifrage*, serving in the Atlantic and on Murmansk convoys. He was to witness some of the most desperate actions of the climacteric months of the Battle of the Atlantic, a period during which the Admiralty's position seemed hopeless at first until hope at last dawned in the spring of 1943, and it was suddenly perceived that Doenitz's U-boats had received a fatal check.

Towards the end of the war Hodge was in the Far East, serving as Staff Officer (Intelligence) to the British Pacific Fleet in the battleship *King George V*. As such, he was one of the first British officers into Tokyo after the Japanese surrender and was charged by his admiral with delivering a case of whisky to the Swiss soldiers who had safeguarded the British Embassy for the duration of hostilities.

After the war he joined the Edinburgh firm of solicitors Cowan & Stewart, where he became senior partner in 1950 and where he worked until his eventual retirement in 1984. He was a prominent figure in the commercial affairs of Edinburgh. He was a director of Standard Life Assurance, 1965-87, and was chairman of the company from 1977 to 1982. He was a former president of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and was, from 1967 to 1985, chairman of the General Commissioners of Income Tax for Edinburgh South.

At the same time he pursued his RNVR career, being promoted commander in 1949 and captain in 1953. He was CO of the Forth Division RNVR from 1953 to 1957, when he retired.

Hodge enjoyed his position as a governor of his old school, Fettes College, as well as his membership of the Court of Heriot-Watt University. He also served as a Deputy Lieutenant for Edinburgh. After retirement he continued to be active in para-naval affairs locally and was chairman of the Edinburgh District Sea Cadets Committee, 1959-63.

He is survived by his wife Pauline and by a son and two daughters.

REGINALD MITCHELL

Reginald Mitchell, MBE, owner of Reggie's British Pub in Atlanta, died in Falls Church, Virginia, on December 27 aged 71. He was born in Brighton on October 22, 1925.

AT FIRST glance, Reginald Mitchell seemed a stereotypical expatriate Briton, a distinguished figure twirling his handlebar moustache, immaculately suited and glad-handing visitors to Reggie's British Pub, nestled among the shops of the CNN Centre in Atlanta. For Americans seeking an authentic pub, Reggie's was certainly the real thing, with its British beer and magnificent sausages and steak and kidney pies. Mitchell was always in front of the bar, never pulling pints behind it.

But Mitchell's endeavours stretched far beyond the duties of "mine host". He was perhaps the best-known Briton in the southern United States. He devoted himself to nurturing transatlantic goodwill and his MBE last January was in recognition of his many accomplishments in strengthening ties between British and American communities.

He organised Atlanta's first service for Remembrance Sunday in memory of those from both countries who served in two world wars. He started the Oglethorpe Ball, named after the original British Governor of Georgia, and turned it into a charity-fundraising highlight of the social calendar.

As president of the Atlanta English Speaking Union he sponsored college scholarships and Shakespearean competitions. He was involved in Burns Night, the local Scottish Highland Games and the British-American Business Group.

Reginald Mitchell was a great-great-great-grandson of Lord Cornwallis, whose defeat as commander of British troops gave the Americans their final victory in the War of Independence. In jaunty recognition of his unfortunate forebear, Mitchell organised a Grand Losers' Day in his pub every Fourth of July with toasts to Cornwallis and his adversary, George Washington.

Reggie's was a cool refuge for many Britons seeking escape from Atlanta's blistering heat, including visitors to last year's Olympics and, some years before that, a horde of grateful British journalists covering the Democratic Convention in a dreary auditorium across the street.

Born in Brighton, Mitchell was evacuated to America early in the Second World War but returned to England in 1943, aged 17, to enlist in the Royal Marines. He later transferred to the Indian Army and was commissioned in the Punjab Frontier Force Rifles, known as "Piffers". In all his subsequent wanderings, he never lost his Indian Army swagger, nor his English accent.

After demob he enrolled in the University of Georgia, took up residence in a red caboose parked near by and earned a BA in journalism. He worked his way around the United States as a freelance writer, actor, lumberjack, ranch hand and construction worker, until finally reaching Alaska where he sold encyclopaedias to Eskimos.

Always a debonair figure, he shuttled between Atlanta and London, holding jobs in advertising and publicity, until becoming director of the British Menswear Guild in 1964. During his six years at the helm, he sponsored 250 promotions all over the world for British menswear and, to the delight of members, doubled their overseas sales.

In the early 1970s, he again returned to Atlanta as director of the Fashion Institute of America. He opened Reggie's 20 years ago, followed by a second Reggie's on the waterfront in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mitchell's wife Patricia died in 1989. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.

SIR ROGER FALK

Sir Roger Falk, OBE, businessman, died on January 15 aged 86. He was born on June 22, 1910.

ROGER FALK was a successful businessman with a strong sense of public duty. He enjoyed a long and active career in advertising, marketing and management consultancy. But in the course of it he found time to write a bestselling book on management: to serve with distinction on such public bodies as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Gaming Board, and the Board of Prison Visitors; and to champion the performing arts at Sadler's Wells. He himself liked to say that his greatest achievement was to have brought up three children as a single parent, after the death of his wife in the 1950s.

Educated at Haileybury and Geneva University, Roger Salis Falk began work in 1948 at D.J. Keymer, the advertising agency run by his father. Unhappy and frustrated there at first, he soon left for South Africa, where he worked for a year on the Rhodesia Railways in Bulawayo, before his father persuaded him to rejoin the firm, this time as manager of its office in Calcutta. He spent four challenging years working there and in Bombay, before coming back to England as a director in 1935.

Selected in 1937 as prospective Conservative candidate for Shoreditch, he was prevented by the Second World War from contesting the seat, where the Labour majority was 37,000. He did, however, serve on Shoreditch Borough Council, 1937-45. In 1939 he joined the RAF, serving first in France as adjutant to two Hurricane squadrons. Finishing the war with the rank of wing commander, he was appointed OBE (mil) in 1945.

He returned after the war to D. J. Keymer, spending four years as managing director before selling the company in 1949. In November of that year he became the first and last director-general of the British Export Trade Research Organisation, where he was able to draw on his extensive knowledge of foreign markets until the organisation was disbanded a few years later.

He then joined the engineering consultancy P-E International, initially to develop its marketing activities. His association with the company lasted until 1976. In the 1950s and 1960s management consultancies prospered but by 1973, when Falk became chairman of P-E, many of them were running into difficulties. Embarking on what he described as "a bit of a surgical job", he cut the number of consultants by a third. That decisive action, and his insistence that consultancy was about selling solid business expertise, rather than jargon, wizardry and gimmicks, ensured that his firm survived while many of its rivals foundered.

Falk never subscribed to the school of management that advocates 16-hour days and no life beyond the office. His bestselling book, *The Business of Management*, first published in 1961 and frequently reprinted, insisted that "management 'rules' must always be subordinated to wider, human issues" and placed great importance on the public responsibilities of private enterprise.

His own sense of social responsibility was strong, and his outside interests were wide. Particularly after the death of his wife, he threw himself into public service with great energy and dedication. He joined the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1965 and remained a member until 1980; he also served as deputy chairman of the Gaming Board, and as chairman of the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation. He was knighted in 1969.

In several of his appointments he was able to combine his commitment to public service with his keen interest in the arts. As chairman of the Furniture Development Council, and as a member of the Council of Industrial Design and of the Council of the Royal Society of Arts, he was a passionate and down-to-earth champion of good, functional modern design.

Sadler's Wells was the other main artistic beneficiary of his dedication and expertise. As chairman and then vice-president of its foundation and trust, he ensured that the values of the theatre's founder, Lilian Baylis, were upheld and that Sadler's Wells continued to present high quality performances to the widest possible audience even at a time of financial crisis in the arts.

Anxious to compensate for the departure of the resident opera company to the Coliseum, he was instrumental in providing the Royal Ballet touring company with a home at Sadler's Wells for 14 years from 1976. He did much to increase the theatre's sponsorship revenue, enabling it to continue to attract the best visiting companies from Britain and abroad. As life vice-president, he lived long enough to see the theatre close for redevelopment with lottery funds.

His wife Margaret, whom he married in 1938, died in 1958. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

JACK WILLISON

Jack Willison, barber to the Royal Family, died on January 2 aged 80. He was born on July 21, 1916.

EVERY few weeks for forty years, Jack Willison could be found making his way to Buckingham Palace, armed with scissors and lotions, clippers and combs. There it was his job to attend to the hair of the Duke of Edinburgh and, until his marriage in 1981, of the Prince of Wales as well.

An unassuming man, devoted to his work, he was discreet about his dealings. Despite having such an exclusive clientele (he had also cut the hair of Winston Churchill), he never once divulged a confidence. Believing the relationship between a man and his barber to be one of trust, he was dismissive of what he regarded as frivolous media gossip. Not only did he refuse the many requests for interviews and offers of generous remuneration from the press, but he never even disclosed to his wife what passed between himself and his clients.

His dedication to his work was recognised earlier this month in the New Year's Honours List when he was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal for his services to the Royal Family. Both the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales sent him telegrams to express their appreciation of his work.

John Herbert Willison was born in South Norwood and educated locally. His career as a barber was interrupted by the Second World War when he served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, though even then he kept his hand in by trimming the hair of a few of his comrades. When the war was over he joined the men's hairdressers Penhaligons, later to became Truefitt & Hill. He was to remain with them until last year when, at the age of 80, he was forced to retire because of failing health.

Outside his work, Willison was a devoted family man. Though he occasionally trimmed the locks of his son-in-law or attended to his own neat moustache, he refused ever to meddle with the hairstyles of his wife or daughter. A thoroughly old-fashioned barber, he would never have been at home in today's unisex salons.

Fascinated by history, in his free time he would pore over historical works. He was particularly interested in steam locomotion and was a member of the Swanage Railway.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, whom he married in 1940, and by their daughter.

ON THIS DAY

January 18, 1991

JOHN MAJOR'S BROADCAST

Extracts from a speech given on television a day after the launch of Desert Storm, the battle to force Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

"He invaded without justification. His army has conducted itself without mercy. If such brutality and aggression are rewarded with success, then we are all at risk. If you appease a bully you pay for it later, and you often pay more dearly ... In the patient diplomacy of the past five months leaders from around the world have sought peace, and then sought it again. But unfortunately, Saddam Hussein has chosen war ... We applied sanctions to make our point clear. We refused to trade with Iraq. Those sanctions made life harsher for Saddam's people, but he was not a man to be influenced by their suffering. Then the world set him a deadline. Free Kuwait, we said, or we will have to free it from you ... Saddam has chosen instead to defy the world. The deadline passed on January 15 and still he refused to withdraw. That is why we and our partners are now facing up to our responsibility. It is to compel him to obey the United Nations ... Our aims are clear. They have been set out, for all to see, by the United Nations Security Council. First we must get Iraq out of Kuwait — right out of Kuwait. Second, we must restore Kuwait's legitimate government. And third, we must uphold the authority of the United Nations. We and our allies want nothing more than that. We are not seeking to dismember Iraq. We have no intention of imposing our choice of government on Iraq. We are simply doing what the United Nations said should be done. We are acting with the authority of the United Nations, and on behalf of the whole world ... On Tuesday, members of Parliament gave the government their overwhelming support. One of the biggest parliamentary majorities in recent history supported action to enforce the decisions of the UN. It is a just cause, and it is right that we in Britain should play our part. I take no pleasure in this conflict, but I do know what we are doing is right. Our nation has been through many trials in the past, but when, as now, right and justice have been on our side, we have prevailed ... I was privileged to meet many of our servicemen and women in the Gulf last week. Their professionalism is outstanding, their confidence impressive, and their courage undoubted. You can be proud of them — very proud. Each one of them has Britain's wholehearted support, and the prayers of all of us for their safe return home. And our prayers are also for you, their families. We are no less proud of you. Goodnight and God bless."

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BAKER, LILIAN of Glebelands, Chissold Road, London, N16 died on 31 January 1996 particulars to DOWSE & CO Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1 7BU before 20 March 1997

TRUSTEE ACTS

FROUDE, NORA ALMA of 36 Byron Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks. Died on 26th December 1996. Particulars to SARJEANT & SHEPPARD Solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1HE. Before 4th April, 1997

GOODWIN, LILY of 31 EVERSLEY CRESCENT, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX died on 10 OCTOBER 1993 particulars to MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN Solicitors of PO BOX 101, 20 STATION ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS WD1 1HT before 19 March 1997 (Personal Representative(s): Alan John Piper)

HODGE ENID CAROLINE of 121 Ferrymead Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9TN died 23rd August 1996; particulars to Lancasters, 486 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TT Ref: AW/HODGE. Executor Michael Thomas Hodge. Before 14th March 1997.

KRAUSZ, GERDA of 45 Heath Royal, Kersfield Road, Putney, London, SW15 died on 23 December 1994 particulars to RAYNER DE WOLFE Solicitors of 31 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON WC1B 5HJ before 19 March 1997

RUBENSTEIN, REBECCA of Rubens and Shine House, Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3 died on 25 August 1996 particulars to RAYNER DE WOLFE Solicitors of 31 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON WC1B 5HJ before 19 March 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

MURRAY HARRINGTON & MCNAMEE LIMITED
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G F Hilton
P J Long
Joint Liquidators

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LIFTING OF BAN ON THE SUSPENSION OF HUNTING

Owing to the recent improvement in weather conditions the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of Wales have revoked the Order prohibiting the shooting of birds on Schedule 2 Part I to the Wildlife and Countryside Act from 9.00am on Saturday, 18 January 1997.

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THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

NEWS

Superwoman flies into action

■ Nicola Horlick, the City "superwoman" suspended by her employer Morgan Grenfell, flew to the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt yesterday for a showdown to win back her job.

She emerged victorious, claiming that two key staff had listened to her side of the story and discussed two options with her: reinstatement or fair compensation .... Page 1

War crimes trial collapses

■ Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial collapsed before it began, costing the taxpayer £4 million. An Old Bailey jury decided that Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, from Banstead in Surrey, was unfit to stand trial after hearing expert evidence that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease .... Pages 1, 3

Back to earth

The American hot air balloonist Steve Fossett may be forced to abandon his attempt to fly around the world after Libya refused him permission to overfly .... Page 1

Bishops speak out

Church of England bishops promised to speak out on political issues in the election campaign and fight for "a more just world" ..... Page 6

Witness collapses

The lover of Eve Howells, whose husband and sons are charged with her murder, collapsed in the witness box .... Page 8

Pulpit pain

Male worshippers' dislike of being told what to do by a female is making life difficult for women preachers .... Page 10

Forger's last laugh

Eric Hebborn, the art forger, is having the last laugh. His guide to faking is to be published, a year after he was murdered ..... Page 11

Getting the bird

Westminster council started to starve Trafalgar Square's pigeons into submission. It says the birds damage buildings and spread disease .... Page 14

Hebron curfew

Israeli troops left from most of Hebron but a curfew was clamped on Palestinians living near the remaining Jewish settlers ... Page 16

Gingrich fine

Newt Gingrich is expected to have to pay a penalty of at least $100,000 (£60,000) for violations of ethics .... Page 17

Palazzo puzzle

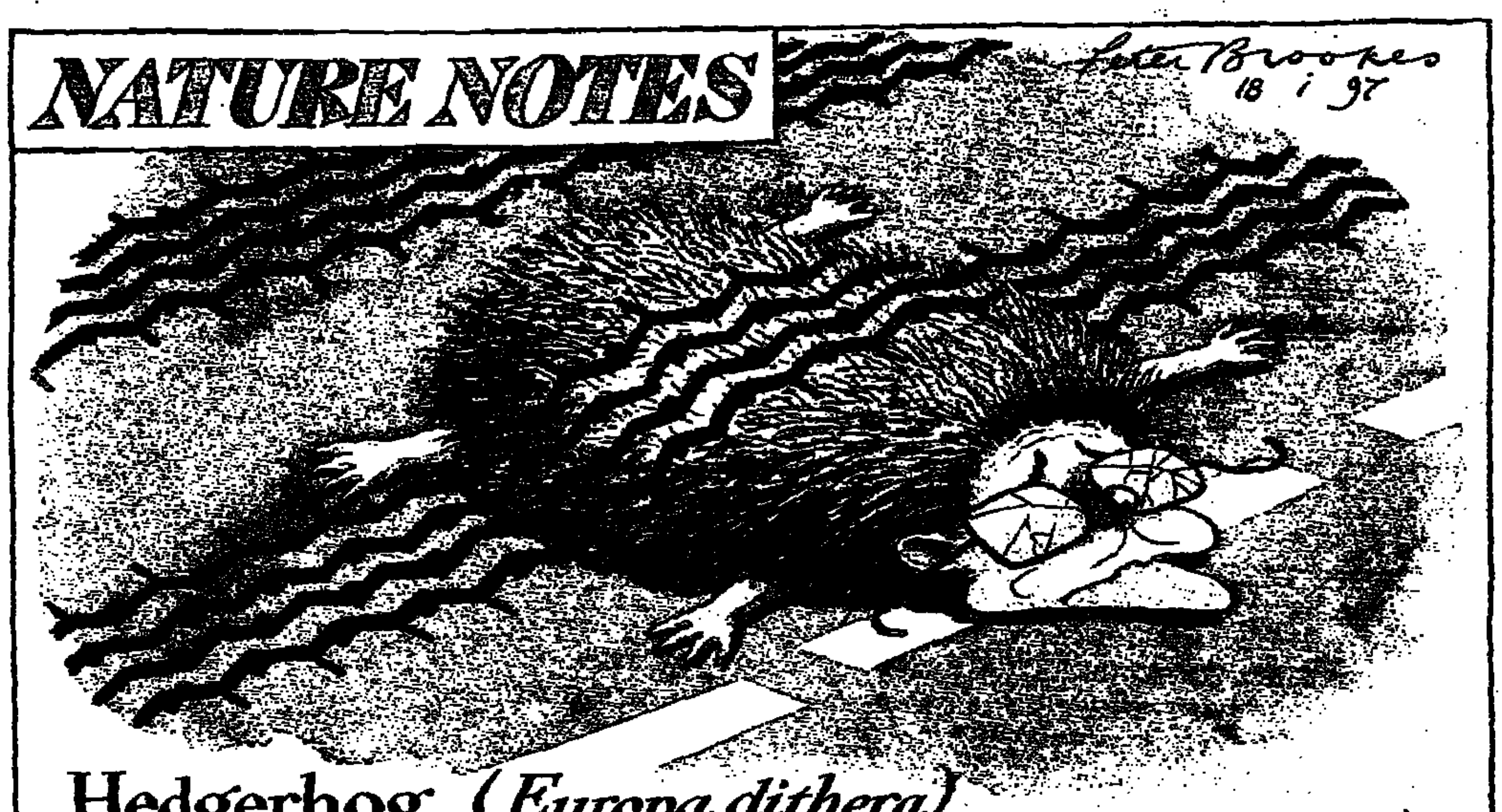
Police were baffled by the murder of Count Alvise di Robilant, an art connoisseur battered to death in his Florentine palazzo ...... Page 18

All the news

A book by Katharine Graham, the American newspaper publisher, covers her husband's philandering and suicide .... Page 19

Oranges kicked into touch

■ No more will weary rugby players gather on the pitch and suck a chunk of half-time orange before picking at their teeth to remove its last shards. In March the five-minute interval is to be doubled and players may leave the field. The dear old Jaffa was as essential to rugby as a scrum or a line-out .... Page 1



Hedgerhog (*Europa dithera*)

If this sad creature persists in its middle-of-the-road position it can expect to be kohled in large numbers.

OPINION

The old Bill: There is still time for Mr Howard to avoid a confrontation with the Upper House .... Page 23

His fellow Americans: The time is not for Bill Clinton to ask what Americans can do for him, but what he can now do for Americans...... Page 23

A brother's hand: The Chief Rabbi is ready to face European Judaism's greatest challenge .... Page 23

LETTERS

Heath on Europe; Police Bill; Hollywood's war with Germany .... Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The natural landscape of the British Isles is not field or scrub but forest. Come Armageddon, forest would again cover most of the country .... Page 22

Anthony Howard: Most political leaders have an ideological pedigree, but Tony Blair seems to have none .. Page 22

OBITUARIES

Captain Alexander Hodge, GC, Standard Life Assurance; **Reginald Mitchell**, Atlanta pub owner; **Jack Willison**, barber to the Royal Family .... Page 25

BUSINESS

Economy: Weak receipts from VAT helped to push up December's government borrowing .... Page 27

Storehouse: The group is to part company with its finance director .... Page 27

Guinness: The drinks company spent £182 million on its own shares .... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed 10.2 points up at 4207.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.1 to 96.6 after a fall from $1.6752 to $1.6683 but a rise from DM2.6673 to DM2.6890 .... Page 30

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman was sent packing 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 by Michael Chang in the third round of the Australian Open in Melbourne .... Page 52

Rugby union: The five nations' championship opens, needing to stand comparison with southern hemisphere competition .... Page 52

Football: Michael Duberry, Chelsea and England Under-21 defender, is out for the rest of the season .... Page 52

CAR 97

Kit cars: head-on crashes: Vectra estate

ARTS

Wake up, luvvies! The Government gets a sullen acquiescence from its arts community. Richard Morrison longs for some creative spice .... Page 21

Wintry night: Opera North has perversely set *Falstaff* in midwinter, and a chill spread over this sunniest of operatic comedies on its first night .... Page 21

Crisp new tenor: Just five years after his professional debut the young American Richard Workman is in the top rank of Rossini tenors and is set for stardom .... Page 21

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Hit girls: women storm the charts .... Page 8
The ice queen: Lindsay Duncan .... Page 19
Food and drink .... Page 39

Weekend

Private view: Lord Archer at home .... Pages 1, 2

Property: The Caribbean: churches .... Pages 6-8
Family life: Caring for an elderly parent ...... Page 13

10 15

Ski whizz: Chemmy Alcott
Trip to the top: Drew Barrymore
Win a Las Vegas holiday

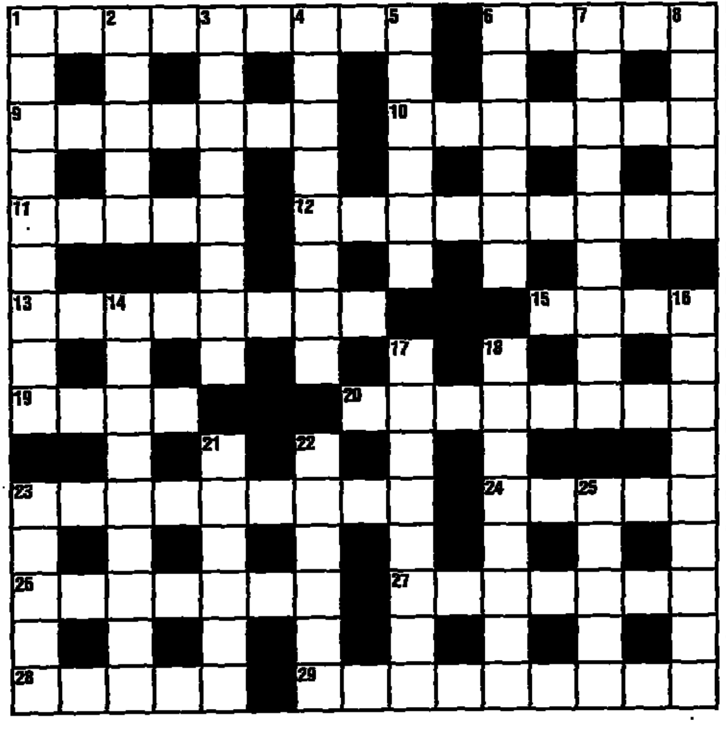
directory

Going out .... Pages 13-21
Food .... Pages 4-6
Books .... Pages 7-12
TV guide .... Pages 23-50
People .... Page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,380

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....



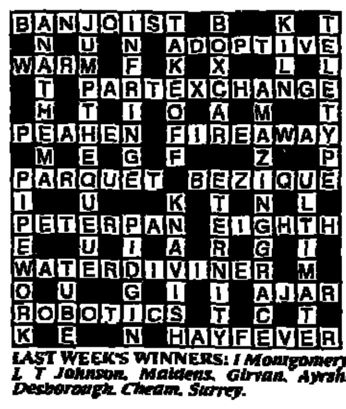
ACROSS

1 Explain vote (3,6).
6 Aide and colleague of religious leader (5).
9 Government order backing plea to arrest me (7).
10 Feeling uncertainly with hand and leg, being in drink (7).
11 Abandon the fight (5).
12 Mill, for example, produces this weekly (9).
13 For example, a daughter started in profession (8).
15 Talk of path where pass should be? (4).
19 Boy in depression (4).
20 True lady involved in this? Hardly! (8).
23 Draw another of trainer's horses, not a starter for bookies (9).
24 Admitting the sea needs a clean (5).
26 Fateful order one has reason to follow (7).
27 Print style for listing characters (7).
28 Stream of consciousness? Not when one comes out of it (5).
29 Speed with battle force to presumed lair of monster (9).

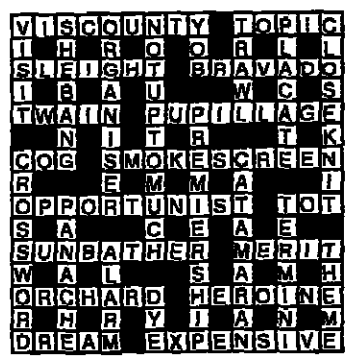
DOWN

1 Persuade to join reporters and go north of the border (5-4).
2 It grows underground, right? (5).
3 Shield for vehicle put on quickly (8).
4 Serve in remote organization that shows a measure of progress (8).
5 Italian men holding up notice (6).
6 Picture nitrogen as a tiny particle (6).
7 Some artists are so original (9).
8 Easily done – it was made on the first morning (5).
14 He may treat people by reconstructing their past (9).
16 Horror film is about son getting mental illness (9).
17 On side boundaries keeping West Indies on top of English (8).
18 Nice money received by agricultural worker (8).
21 Request ace and beat it! (6).
22 Service provided for rock group (6).
23 Start to penetrate into earth – throw this up? (5).
25 Put bad ideas here? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,374



Solution to Puzzle No 20,379



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *I Montgomery, Elgin, Moray; K Northam, Winslow, Bucks; L T Johnson, Maidens, Girvan, Ayrshire; F R Spragg, Thatcham, Berks; S H Desborough, Cheam, Surrey.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.57 am	4.26 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
3.08 am	12.44 pm

Full moon January 23

London 4.26 pm to 7.56 am
Bristol 4.36 pm to 8.05 am
Edinburgh 4.17 pm to 8.29 am
Manchester 4.25 pm to 8.13 am
Penzance 4.53 pm to 8.12 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.55 am	4.29 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.06 am	2.09 pm

Full moon January 23

London 4.29 pm to 7.54 am
Bristol 4.39 pm to 8.03 am
Edinburgh 4.21 pm to 8.26 am
Manchester 4.29 pm to 8.10 am
Penzance 4.56 pm to 8.10 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.00	6.3	21.48	6.4
Aberdeen	09.19	3.7	21.45	3.7
Avonmouth	02.03	10.6	14.46	10.7
Belfast	06.48	3.1	19.17	3.2
Cardiff	01.49	9.9	14.32	10.0
Devonport	00.50	4.5	13.23	4.5
Dover	06.20	5.7	19.06	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	07.33	3.7	19.54	3.8
Falmouth	00.21	4.3	12.54	4.3
Greenock	07.35	3.1	20.26	3.1
Harwich	06.48	3.5	19.37	3.4
Holyhead	06.10	4.7	18.36	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	01.14	7.7	14.16	7.4
Ilfracombe	01.06	7.3	13.47	7.5
King's Lynn	01.28	5.5	14.22	5.2
Leith	10.24	4.8	22.55	4.8
Liverpool	06.43	7.7	19.15	7.9
Lowestoft	04.42	2.3	17.51	2.2
Margate	07.06	4.1	20.03	4.0
Milford Haven	01.26	5.5	14.03	5.6
Newquay	00.27	5.6	13.03	5.7
Oban	01.48	2.9	14.34	3.2
Penzance	-	-	12.27	4.6
Portland	01.30	1.5	14.00	1.5
Portsmouth	07.07	4.2	19.42	4.0
Shoreham	06.29	5.2	19.16	5.0
Southampton	06.15	4.0	18.51	3.8
Swansea	01.28	7.6	14.03	7.7
Tees	-	-	-	-
Walton-on-N	06.46	3.6	19.38	3.5

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Culdrose, Cornwall, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Strathallan, Perth and Kinross, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Glenanne, Co Armagh, 0.59in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.0hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will see rain spreading from the South West to reach all western and northern parts. Central and south-eastern England will be generally dry with varying amounts of cloud. Western parts will turn windy. After frost in central and northern districts, temperatures will be mostly around normal.

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showery outbreaks of rain. Northern Scotland should stay largely dry. Over the Grampians further snow is expected. It will be windy in the west.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** patchy fog clearing, clear or sunny spells, generally dry. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** patchy fog at first, clearing. Outbreaks of showery rain later. Wind southerly, fresh, locally strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** dry at first, cloudy with patchy rain later. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** broken cloud, showers, wintry in north and over hills. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh, locally strong at times. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ **Outlook:** wintry showers in north, elsewhere mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

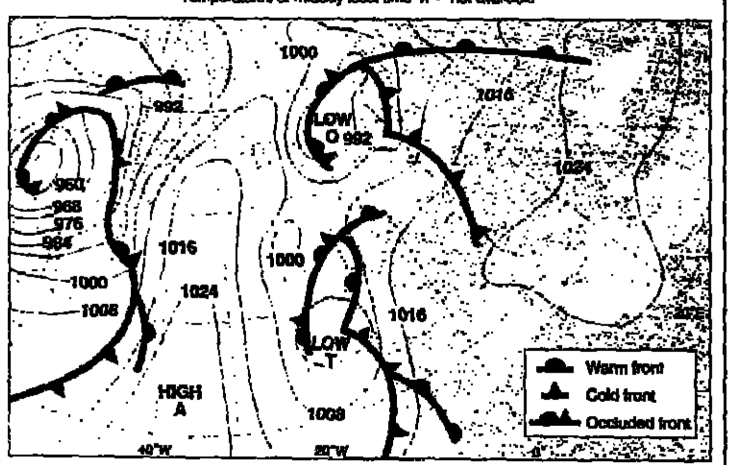
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.02	6	43	r
Anglesey	X				
Aspatria	0.1	0.01	9	48	r
Aviemore	-	0.19	7	45	r
Belfast	0.5	0.32	9	48	r
Birmingham	0.4	0.01	9	48	r
Bognor R	1.2	0.07	8	46	r
Bournem'th	1.5	0.02	11	52	b
Bristol	1.3	0.10	10	50	r
Buxton	-	0.01	7	45	fg
Cardiff	1.6	0.06	10	50	r
Clacton	1.6	-	5	41	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	1.0	0.01	11	52	b
Cromer	1.8	0.01	6	43	r
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.04	8	46	c
Edinburgh	-	0.07	6	43	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.07	6	43	r
Exmouth	3.1	0.19	11	52	s
Falmouth	6.0	0.12	12	54	s
Fishguard	3.2	0.01	10	50	s
Folkestone	1.2	0.02	7	45	r
Glasgow	-	0.35	6	43	r
Guernsey	3.7	0.05	13	55	b
Hastings	-	0.03	7	45	sh
Hayling I.	1.1	0.04	9	48	sh
Herne Bay	3.5	0.01	X	X	b
Hove	-	X	7	45	r
Hunstanton	X	0.03	7	45	r
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	2.6	0.01	10	50	r
Jersey	3.2	0.13	10	50	r
Kinloss	-	0.18	6	43	r
Leeds	-	-	9	48	du
Lerwick	-	-	6	43	du
Leuchars	X				
Littlehmptn	0.1	0.03	8	46	sh
London	-	0.02	9	46	sh
Lowestoft	0.3	0.03	5	41	d
Manchester	-	0.01	9	48	c
Margate	3.3	0.01	8	46	b
Minehead	2.6	0.06	11	52	sh
Morecambe	-	0.01	8	46	r
Newcastle	-	0.01	6	43	r
Newquay	5.8	0.16	11	52	b
Norwich	2.0	0.02	6	43	r
Oxford	0.1	0.02	9	48	r
Penzance	X	0.09	13	55	s
Poole	1.6	0.03	11	52	r
Prestatyn	X	0.01	11	52	b
Ross-o-wye	1.0	0.04	X	X	d
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	1.2	0.06	10	50	r
Saunton Snd	3.9	0.10	11	52	s
Scarboro'	-	0.01	6	43	du
Shanklin	X	0.05	9	48	r
Shrewsbury	0.2	0.01	9	48	sh
Skegness	1.3	0.03	6	43	sh
Southend	X				
Southport	-	-	9	48	du
Southsea	0.9	0.04	9	48	r
Stornoway	-	0.14	8	46	r
Swanage	1.7	0.02	10	50	sh
Teignmouth	3.3	0.21	12	54	s
Tenby	2.5	0.05	10	50	b
Tiree	-	0.37	8	46	r
Torquay	3.5	0.19	12	54	s
Tynemouth	-	0.01	7	45	fg
Ventnor	1.3	0.04	9	48	sh
West-s-mare	-	0.09	10	50	c
Weymouth	2.8	0.05	10	50	r

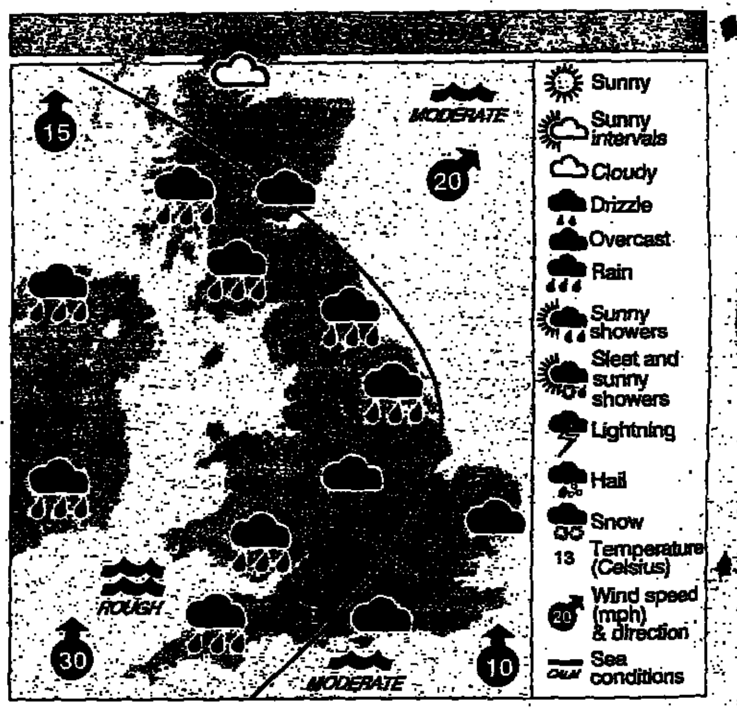
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	16	61	f	Rome	13	55	s
Akrotiri	15	59	s	C'phagn	-2	28	fg	Malaga	14	57	c	S Fr'sco	8	46	f
Alex'dria	17	63	c	Dublin	8	46	c	Malta	17	63	s	S Paulo	21	70	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Salzburg	-3	27	s
Amst'dm	4	39	s	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	16	61	s	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	14	57	s	Florence	9	48	s	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	3	37	f
B Aires	31	88	s	Frankfurt	-5	23	s	Milan	9	48	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	23	73	c	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	1	34	fg	St'kholm	5	41	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	-3	27	c	Moscow	2	36	c	Strasb'rg	-7	19	fg
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	4	39	s	Sydney	23	73	f
Barcelona	13	55	f	Helsinki	2	36	s	N Delhi	16	61	s	Tangier	15	59	c
Beirut	11	52	f	Hong K	21	70	s	N York	6	43	f	Tel Aviv	12	54	r
Belgrade	2	36	c	Innsbrck	5	41	s	Nairobi	29	84	s	Tenerife	22	72	f
Berlin	2	36	s	Istanbul	9	48	s	Naples	14	57	s	Tokyo	8	46	s
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	23	73	s	Nice	14	57	s	Toronto	-5	23	sn
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	3	37	s	Tunis	16	61	s
Borde'x	12	54	s	L Angels	X			Paris	6	43	s	Valencia	14	57	c
Brussels	6	43	s	L Palmas	20	68	f	Peking	-1	30	f	Vanc'ver	0	32	f
Budapest	-2	28	c	Le Tquet	5	41	s	Perth	35	95	s	Venice	9	48	s
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	16	61	c	Prague	-8	18	fg	Vienna	-3	27	c
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	11	52	s	Reykjavik	2	36	c	Warsaw	0	32	c
Ch'church	18	64	x	Luxembg	3	37	s	Rhodes	16	61	s	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	-16	3	s	Luxor	20	68	f	Rio de J	29	84	f	Well'ngton	19	66	x
Cologne	5	41	s	Madrid	10	50	c	Riyadh	23	73	s	Zurich	-6	21	fg

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low T will move slowly N with little change in central pressure, low O will track SE across Finland and gradually fill; high A is expected to build in situ



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MONACO GRAND PRIX
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Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 April • four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira • Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,499

Concorde supersonic to Nice on 1 June • seven night Oriana cruise from Monte-Carlo to Southampton via Livorna (for Florence and Pisa), Ajaccio and Barcelona • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June • eleven night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,999

Concorde supersonic from Heathrow to Bergen on 19 June • two night Oriana cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca • Concorde to Heathrow £1,799

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

LVMH sells £560m of shares in Guinness

By Alasdair Murray

GUINNESS, the drinks company, yesterday paid out £182 million in a share buyback as it attempted to ease the pain caused by the decision of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the company's principle shareholder, to reduce its stake from 20.9 per cent to 14.2 per cent.

Guinness stepped into the market to purchase 44 million shares at 414p from Goldman Sachs after the French luxury goods and drinks company announced that it had placed 135 million shares with the merchant bank at the same price.

The move, which is standard City practice, helped to steady Guinness's share price after shares fell 22p to 414p in early trading. By close the shares had rebounded to 432p, down just 4p on the day.

Ten years ago Guinness was accused of illegally propping up its share price in an attempt to underpin a £2.7 billion bid for United Distillers, the spirits company. Four people, including Ernest Saunders, the former chairman, were subsequently found guilty of fraud in connection with the share support operations.

LVMH, which informed Guinness of its decision to sell on Thursday evening, is believed to have made a profit of about £100 million from the sale of the stake, which raised a total of £560 million.

The sale ends months of speculation over a growing rift between the two companies with Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH and a board member at Guinness, apparently dissatisfied by Guinness's lacklustre share performance. Mr Arnault is believed to have floated the idea of demerging Guinness's brewing division, a plan rejected by Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness and a director at LVMH.

Guinness's weak trading statement on Wednesday, coupled with a warning over the impact of currency movements on this year's profits, was seen by many in the City as the final straw for M Arnault.

LVMH said it would use the money to help to finance its $2.5 billion acquisition of a majority stake in DFS, the US duty-free shopping group. But analysts believe that the company may also be looking to make further purchases in the near future, pointing to the fact that LVMH could easily finance the bid from existing resources.

The luxury goods company is understood to be negotiating to buy out the two minority shareholders in DFS, even though they fiercely opposed the initial takeover plan. Yves Saint Laurent and Nina Ricci, the fashion groups, were also cited as potential targets yesterday.

Guinness and LVMH were quick yesterday to assure shareholders that the commercial ties which exist between the two companies were unaffected by LVMH's reduction in its shareholding. LVMH said it would not further reduce its stake for at least a year, while Guinness will continue to hold a 34 per cent stake in Moët Hennessy, LVMH's drinks subsidiary.

Tempus, page 30

PSBR up as VAT receipts decline

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

GOVERNMENT borrowing in December was higher than the City expected, partly because of weak VAT receipts as Britain's consumer revival lost some of its steam at the tail-end of last year.

The public sector borrowing requirement was £2.1 billion last month, compared with City expectations of a figure nearer to £1.1 billion. December's borrowing took the cumulative PSBR for the current tax year to £16.1 billion, compared with £23 billion at the same stage a year ago.

For the full year ending on April 5, the Government is forecasting a PSBR of £26.4 billion and, despite a measure of City disappointment in yesterday's figures, the Treasury said that they were entirely consistent with its forecast at Budget time.

Officials noted that borrowing in December was boosted by £1.2 billion because of shifts in the timing of interest payments related to the new market for gilt strips. These allow investors to split government bonds into paper of shorter maturities, which then attract interest payments in different months. December is one of the months most affected by this activity.

Of slightly more concern in the markets was apparent weakness in VAT receipts, which have clearly slowed over the past two months. David Bloom of HSBC James Capel noted that, although VAT receipts in the first ten months of the financial year were 10 per cent higher than a year ago, this compared with a year-on-year rise of 15 per cent only two months ago.

Nevertheless, the City broadly agreed with the Treasury's view that it will meet this year's PSBR projection.

WEEKEND
MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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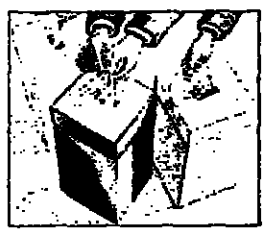
Anne Ashworth on Scottish Amicable's unfriendly plans

INVESTMENT



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Steele goes as Storehouse finance director

By Paul Durman

STOREHOUSE, the Bhs and Mothercare group that has recently come under fire for its financial reporting, is to part company with Dick Steele, its finance director for the past three years.

Criticism has centred on the company's "same-store" sales figures. Storehouse reported its latest figures yesterday, showing an 18 per cent rise in group sales for the six weeks to Christmas Eve, and same business sales up 9 per cent. The news prompted a 17½p rise to 275p in Storehouse's share price, which has fallen heavily over the past nine months.

A Storehouse spokesman dismissed suggestions that Mr Steele was leaving because his credibility was damaging the company's share price. He said Storehouse's needs from its finance director had changed. It now required someone who was better able to develop sales and run the business, and had less need of Mr Steele's skills in cost control and other more purely financial matters. Mr Steele will not receive compensation for loss of office.

Mr Steele was previously finance director at Lloyds Chemists, another company that was criticised for its aggressive accounting policies. His replacement is Chris Martin, who will retain his existing responsibilities as finance director of Bhs.

Bhs had a strong Christmas, with sales up nearly 12 per cent, 7.5 per cent coming from same stores. Gifts and menswear were particularly successful. Sarah Charles, head of KPMG's retail consultancy, observed that Storehouse was bouncing back from a poor Christmas in 1995.

However, Mothercare was hit by disappointing sales of children's wear, and the same store numbers dropped 4 per cent. A 0.8 per cent fall in overall sales was blamed on the timing of overseas shipments.

Tempus, page 30

Dick Steele is leaving Storehouse, which has been criticised for its financial reporting

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	4207.7	(+10.2)
Yield	3.70%	
FTSE All share	2061.07	(+5.81)
Nikkei	18090.04	(–54.30)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6798.85	(+33.48)*
S&P Composite	773.86	(+4.11)*
US RATES		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	95 27/32*	(95 27/32)
Yield	6.83%*	(6.83%)
3-mth Interbank	6¼%	(6¼%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	111	(110[illegible])
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6700*	(1.6795)
London:		
$	1.6680	(1.6752)
DM	2.6878	(2.6676)
FFr	9.0619	(9.0027)
SFr	2.3246	(2.3040)
Yen	195.37	(195.06)
£ Index	96.6	(96.1)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.6120*	(1.5950)
FFr	5.4395*	(5.3795)
SFr	1.3940*	(1.3767)
Yen	117.08*	(116.62)
$ Index	99.8	(99.1)
Tokyo close Yen 116.93		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	$22.45	(n/a)
GOLD		
London close	$355.15	($353.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Cable job

Cable and Wireless, the telecoms group, yesterday appointed a senior Granada director as chief executive of its new cable company. The new company, formed from Mercury and three cable groups, will drop the Mercury name from its title.

Page 28

Comet to make 1,200 redundant

By Fraser Nelson

MORE than 1,200 jobs are to go at Comet, the electrical retail group, as part of a major reorganisation after the acquisition of the Norweb retail chain last year.

Kingfisher, Comet's parent company, which bought the Norweb business for £29 million three months ago, yesterday named 54 stores that it plans to close.

Comet said the cuts were just the first stage of its plan to integrate the two store groups. It is taking its redundancy costs from a £22 million budget to cover the operation.

While all of the job losses are coming from Norweb's staff, Comet is closing 26 of its own stores and moving staff to other branches. Some 28 Norweb stores are being closed, and the remaining 26 Norweb stores are to reopen as Comet, with no job losses.

Comet, which inherited 138 Norweb stores when it was merged, said it would complete the reorganisation with 250 stores, compared with the 225 that it had before the merger.

The closures extend from Plymouth to Carlisle, but 16 are in the North West of England.

On Thursday the region suffered a blow when when Ford announced 1,300 jobs losses at its Halewood plant on Merseyside.

Further uncertainty was sparked yesterday after Kodak, the photographic products company, said it planned to axe 4,000 jobs from its worldwide staff. Most of the cuts are expected to fall in Europe, but Kodak would not specify how many of these would come from Britain, where it employs 5,500.

W H Smith is closing its 29 Playhouse video stores after talks to sell the chain to its management collapsed. The retailer, which rebranded its Our Price Video Stores four years ago, said that the majority of the 169 staff employed by the chain would be redeployed elsewhere in the group.

Electra Fleming sued over HMSO

By Gavin Lumsden

ELECTRA FLEMING, the venture capitalist that led last year's successful bid for HMSO, the privatised government stationer and printer, is being sued for more than £500,000.

Michael Allen, of MA Media Partners, claims his company is owed £543,437.50 after it introduced Electra Fleming to Rupert Pennant-Rea, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, last April.

Mr Pennant-Rea and Electra Fleming went on to form the National Publishing Group (NPG) that won control of HMSO, now renamed the Stationery Office, at the end of September with a controversially low bid of £54 million. The sale is under investigation by the National Audit Office.

MA Media and Electra Fleming agreed an introduction fee of 1 per cent of the first £20 million, and 0.25 per cent of the remaining total consideration price.

MA Media claims the total consideration price, including the equity capital, mezzanine finance and debt put together by NPG, was £125 million.

Electra Fleming is sticking to its £54 million figure. It says that much of the MA Media figure is working capital, such as the £40 million charge it has incurred in sacking 900 staff, a third of the Norfolk-based workforce.

However, MA Media says Classtypist, another member of NPG, which acquired the shares in the Stationery Office, also took on "certain liabilities" to the Government. It is fighting for access to documentation relating to the sale. Tim Syder, director of Electra Fleming, said MA Media's claim was "absolutely spurious" and would be "vigorously defended".

The HMSO sale remains controversial in the City where it is estimated the company's true worth was £140 million. NPG won despite higher bids from two other consortiums.

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Siemens may buy Parsons

By Oliver August

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, could expand its £1.1 billion presence on Tyneside with the acquisition of Parsons from Rolls-Royce. But half of the 1,800 staff at the closure-threatened turbine-generator plant are still likely to lose their jobs.

Jürgen Gehrels, the Siemens chief executive, said: "We are always looking at business opportunities, especially those where we can strengthen the position of our individual businesses and areas where we could improve the service we provide to our customers. I don't know yet whether Parsons is such a business opportunity, but we are looking at it."

A four-strong team of executives spent three days at the plant last week. A Rolls-Royce spokesman said there were a number of potential purchasers, but he declined to name them.

An acquisition of Parsons by Siemens, now a leading electronics manufacturer in Britain with over 10,000 UK employees, would significantly boost the German company's presence on Tyneside. Last year it created 500 high-skill jobs at its nearby semiconductor plant, the most modern of its kind in Europe.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

❝Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the City's accident prone investment house, has been rocked by the resignation of the high-flying "superwoman" Nicola Horlick, after allegations of staff poaching . . .❞

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

C&W picks Granada director as chief of new merged group

By Eric Reguly

CABLE AND WIRELESS yesterday appointed a senior Granada executive as chief executive of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), the company to be formed by the merger of Mercury and three cable companies. It said the Mercury name would disappear from the group.

Graham Wallace, 48, a Granada director and chief executive of its restaurants division, is to join CWC in two weeks at an annual salary of £375,000, plus an undisclosed number of CWC options.

Dick Brown, chief executive of C&W, which will own slightly more than half of CWC, was appointed CWC's chairman. A finance director has yet to be hired.

Mr Brown denied speculation that the highly complex merger of the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies, each of which is publicly listed, and Mercury was running into potentially insurmountable obstacles. "We're still on schedule to complete the merger by the spring," he said.

CWC will offer cable TV, telephony and Internet services, long-distance services through Mercury, and intends to develop a range of interactive products. Mr Brown would not comment on speculation that CWC is preparing to offer digital TV services, with as many as 200 channels, in competition with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. However, analysts expect the entire cable industry to launch digital channels late this year.

The three cable companies will give CWC 700,000 customers and access to another five million. Mr Brown said that CWC will also offer mobile-phone services, though it is not known whether this will be done directly through One-2-One, which is owned equally by C&W and US West, the American regional phone company that owns 27 per cent of TeleWest, Britain's biggest cable company.

Mr Brown has hinted that One-2-One will eventually be absorbed into CWC. But Gary Ames, chief executive of US West International, said that it has no plans to relinquish joint control of One-2-One.

Mr Wallace, an engineer and accountant by training, joined Granada in 1986 and was later involved in the merger of BSB and Sky to form BSkyB. In 1992 he became chief executive of Granada's rentals business. He took over the restaurants divisions in 1995 and oversaw their merger with the Forte catering business last year.

At Granada, Mr Wallace is to be replaced by Don Davenport, who had been responsible for contract catering, roadside restaurants and motorway operations.

Wray tables higher bid for Forest

By Alasdair Murray

THE battle to win control of Nottingham Forest Football Club took a new twist yesterday when Bridgford, the consortium led by Nigel Wray, raised its offer by £5 million.

Bridgford is offering a cash injection of £15 million, while Forest shareholders have the option of a 10 per cent stake in the new company or £1.7 million cash. The company also tabled a second offer which includes £13 million in new cash and a 20 per cent stake for existing shareholders.

Bridgford, which is also backed by Irving Scholar — the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman — is one of three consortiums competing to win the support of the club's 209 shareholders.

Last week Forest shareholders rejected a bid from a consortium led by Sandy Anderson, former head of Porterbrook. A third consortium led by Albert Scardino, husband of Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive, has yet to make a formal offer.

Simon Bentley with camping equipment from Blacks Leisure, whose sales have leapt

Blacks Leisure strides out

SHARES in Blacks Leisure, which rose by an extraordinary 680 per cent in 1996, jumped again yesterday after the leisure wear retailer and distributor reported a strong rise in sales and profit margins (Martin Barrow writes).

The company said that total sales rose were 45 per cent higher in the 44 weeks to January 4, while sales on a like-for-like basis were up 22 per cent.

Retail operations, consisting of the First Sport and Blacks Outdoor chains, enjoyed a 22 per cent rise in like-for-like sales. Simon Bentley, the chairman and chief executive, said that the new ActiveVenture format traded ahead of budget over Christmas.

In the first ten months of the current year, 28 stores were opened, giving Blacks 105 outlets. The company also said that distribution operations, embracing O'Neill and Fila UK, continued to trade well.

Blacks shares touched a new high of 406½p yesterday before easing back to 401½p, a gain of 16½p. A year ago, the shares were worth 49½p.

Analysts yesterday upgraded pre-tax profit forecasts for the current year to February 28 to about £10 million, from forecasts of £9.25 million. The company earned just £2.1 million in the previous 12 months.

Mis-selling fear over bonds risk

By Gavin Lumsden

BUSINESS figures released by Scottish Mutual yesterday reveal it could be vulnerable to mis-selling accusations over its high income bonds.

The company sold £221 million, nearly a quarter of last year's new business, into a high income bond guaranteeing 10.5 per cent annual income and capital security if neither the FT-SE 100 or S&P 500 indices fall over five years.

The Institute of Actuaries criticised the marketing of such products last month for misleading investors into thinking there is no risk of indices falling when it estimates the risk at 20 per cent.

There are fears that the Scottish insurer, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abbey National, could put its reputation at risk if such products do not deliver according to investors' expectations. One analyst said: "If the wording in their literature is inadequate or the product does not perform, they will either have to pay up or be open to charges of mis-selling — of course, they are not alone in that risk."

Graham Pottinger, Scottish Mutual's chief executive, said: "We have looked at all our marketing and are confident that it is clear to investors that their capital could be at risk." But he added that the risk had not been quantified.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Liberty unleashing pensions price war

A PRICE WAR is looming in the personal pensions market as Liberty International prepares to launch a low-cost pension to rival those offered by Virgin and Eagle Star. The new pension, available from Tuesday, will be sold by telephone only and will have a small management fee of about 1 per cent, plus an additional monthly charge.

Liberty intends to offer a group personal pension product later this year. Marc Hommel, director of Liberty International Pensions, said that its salesforce was not paid on a commission basis and was not under pressure to do "a hard sell". Liberty International, which also owns Capital Shopping Centres, intends to start selling pensions in its out-of-town malls later this year. Virgin entered the personal pensions market in November, saying that consumers mistrusted the life insurance industry and claiming that its simple products with transparent charges would revolutionise the market.

Low-cost pensions in pipeline, page 31

Northern changes start

THE first changes at Northern Electric since the regional electricity company went into the control of CE Electric began yesterday with the announced sale of its stake in a combined heat and power services company. Northern Electric said that the sale of the one-third interest was expected to be completed within a month to an industrial buyer. Meanwhile boardroom changes are awaited after CE Electric, which won Northern in a hostile bid, moved in a set of directors this month.

EU jobless rate steady

THE European Union's average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.9 per cent for the seventh consecutive month in November, representing 18.2 million jobless. The unemployment rate was 10.8 per cent in November 1995. The EU rate is double the US rate of 5.4 per cent and three times Japan's 3.4 per cent rate. Of the 15 EU nations, Britain recorded the largest fall over the month, down 0.4 percentage points from October to 7.5 per cent. Spain had the highest rate (22.3 per cent) and Luxembourg the lowest (3.3 per cent).

Airbus partner deal

AIRBUS, the consortium that includes British Aerospace, yesterday signed up Fokker Aviation of The Netherlands and Belair of Belgium as design partners in a bid to revive the flagging fortunes of the A3XX, the planned 550-seat superjumbo. Boeing, the world's leading planemaker, is already marketing an enlarged version of the 747. Airbus said that it is negotiating with other aerospace companies worldwide with the aim of placing up to 40 per cent of the A3XX work content with new partners.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.24	2.08	Malta	0.654	0.599
Austria Sch	19.80	18.30	Netherlds Gld	3.154	2.924
Belgium Fr	58.06	53.76	New Zealand $	2.51	2.28
Canada $	2.351	2.191	Norway Kr	11.16	10.36
Cyprus Cyp£	0.833	0.778	Portugal Esc	277.50	259.00
Denmark Kr	10.76	9.96	S Africa Rd	8.40	7.60
Finland Mkk	8.55	7.90	Spain Pta	230.50	217.50
France Fr	9.42	8.77	Sweden Kr	12.28	11.49
Germany Dm	2.83	2.62	Switzerland Fr	2.44	2.26
Greece Dr	434	409	Turkey Lira	195600	183600
Hong Kong $	13.58	12.58	USA $	1.771	1.641
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99			
Israel Shk	5.75	5.10			
Italy Lira	2708	2553			
Japan Yen	209.90	193.90			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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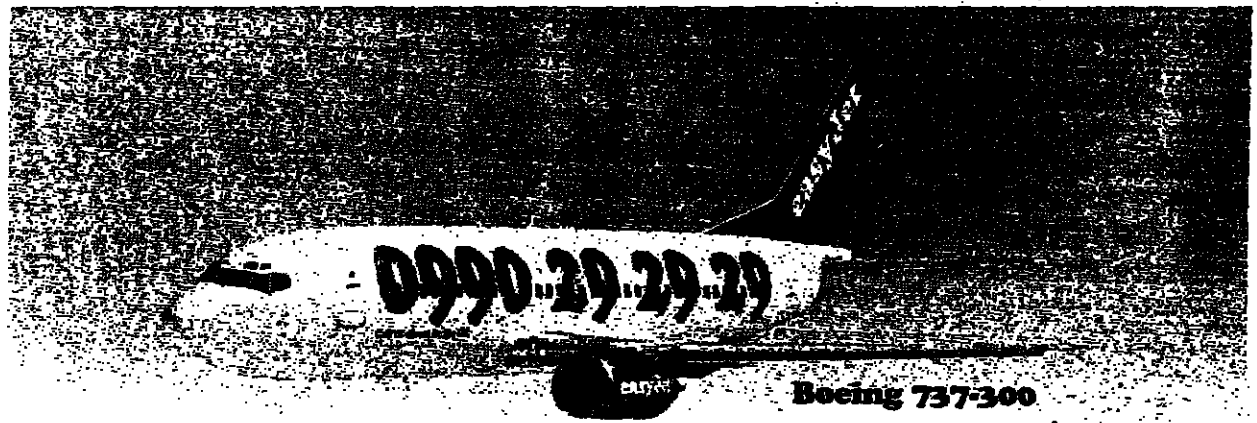

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ATOL 4053

A WORKING WEEK FOR: TONY MASON

Majestic lifestyle based on a nose for a deal

Paul Durman meets a man at the heart of a wine warehouse operation, whose buying decisions hold the key to commercial success

THERE can be few businessmen who can tell you with conviction: "Quality control is always exciting." Yet this is what Tony Mason says, and there is little reason to doubt him.

Mason is in charge of purchasing for Majestic Wine, the company that sells a million cases of wine a year to middle-class professionals. His is the key role in deciding what wines will be available in the converted petrol stations, churches and other oddities that comprise Majestic's warehouse stores.

The wine must first pass through Majestic's headquarters in Watford to be quality tested by Mason and his team. "We taste a bottle of everything as it arrives to make sure it's up to scratch," he explains. "That's always a nice moment in the afternoon when we taste the day's delivery. We bring in competitors' ranges and taste those, too. Those are always fun and interesting." It's a tough job but someone has to do it.

Mason, 51, the company's trading director, is the heart of Majestic, which next week releases its first results since it listed on the Alternative Investment Market. He was a founder of the company in 1981, and has been involved with wine warehouses ever since — though not always with Majestic, and not always with the success that the company enjoys at present. He is renowned for his deal-making, and is always on the lookout for interesting "parcels" of wine.

> ‘We never buy abroad because abroad wines taste different’

Debbie Worton, marketing director of Majestic, says: "He's a bit like a truffle hound when he gets the scent. You never know quite what he's going to come up with next."

A classic example came last year when he picked up 47,000 cases of wine for a knockdown £650,000 or so — from Sweden of all places. Mason jumped on a plane to take advantage of a liquidation of stock by Sweden's state liquor board. Majestic's Swedish promotion was a great success.

Mason's trading flair is built on an entire career spent in the wine business. He came into the industry by chance when, on leaving school in 1962, he went to work for Fortnum & Mason, bottling and labelling wines by hand in the huge cellar Fortnums then owned under Piccadilly. He readily acknowledges that his initial enthusiasm was "more about being 17 and working in Soho in 1962". Mason went on to learn about retailing, working for the men he regards as *the* two great wine merchants of their time — the mercurial Ahmed Pochee, who founded Oddbins, and Brian Barnett, the founder of Augustus Barnett.

The allure of wine has helped Majestic to make a sparkling stock market debut. Its shares, placed at 160p in November, have quickly raced to 285½p. City presentations attracted much more interest than larger but duller companies.

Mason dispels romantic notions that his job is all about driving through the French countryside, occasionally stopping off to share a leisurely bottle with local farmers. Much of the business is conducted at trade fairs. Trips to the vineyards are tightly scheduled, with six or eight visits squeezed in each day over a three or four-day visit.

"We spend 15 minutes talking to you and taste all the wines you have available. We don't socialise or fraternise. We taste and say, 'That wine and that wine, I like. Send me a sample and your best price'. We never, never commit to purchase abroad because it tastes totally different abroad than it does in the tasting office."

Mason and his team each make 12 buying trips a year. Purchasing has to dovetail with Majestic's regular promotions, seven each year.

Mason insists that every wine is tasted with the price chalked clearly on the bottle. He says the best wine buyers come from the sales side since they have a clear feel for what customers want to buy. The danger to avoid is buyers buying for their own more educated palates.

Mason's own specialities are the classic French appellations of the Loire Valley, Rhône and Burgundy; he has handed over responsibility for Bordeaux to a younger colleague. He says he is too old to buy New World wines from Australia, California or South Africa. Despite their popularity, Mr Mason remains suspicious. "I don't particularly enjoy the very obvious fruity flavours of New World wine. They're nice to drink on their own, but they don't work with food." He adds: "It's that element in, say, a claret which you might find quite difficult — the dryness, the astringency — which, actually, if you're drinking claret with roast lamb, is terribly, terribly important."

After 34 years in the wine business, he is much more attracted to the complexities of Bordeaux. He adds: "That's what happens with the consumer, actually. If you're drinking Australian Shiraz now, you'll be enjoying claret in 20 years' time in a way you wouldn't enjoy it now."

He believes his tastes are in tune with Majestic's customers, who spend an average of more than £4.50 a bottle — "which means there are thousands of cases of wine going out at £9.99". Indeed, Majestic's most successful product at Christmas was a Bize-Leroy Royal Burgundy at £9.99.

Straightforward and unassuming, Mason remains some way from being a wine snob. His staff say that the greatest accolade he can pay a wine is: "That will be really good with sausages." He says he is interested in other people's reactions, and likes to try out Majestic's wines on his family, including his two daughters, both in their late 20s. Gallingly, his mother continues to insist that the only place to buy wine is Sainsbury's. "She's quite good for me," he grins.

FINDLAY KEMBER

Tony Mason, Majestic's trading director. His staff say that the greatest accolade he can pay a wine is: "That will be really good with sausages."

His home in St Albans betrays another of his passions — steam trains. He even has a narrow-gauge train, such as you might see in an amusement park, in his hallway. He is also a passionate Frank Sinatra fan and a keen walker.

Mason first became involved with warehouse selling in the late 1970s when he was working for North West Vintners, the company that held the liquor concession for Kwik Save. North West Vintners had a warehouse in Hampstead, but the wines, based around the Kwik Save product range, were not right.

Working as his own buyer, Mason tried again when he moved on to Majestic Vintners in 1980. Although the firm succumbed to losses sustained on its fine-wine broking activities the following year, Mason was convinced he could make warehouses work. When Giles Clarke and Esme Johnstone bought Majestic from the receivers, Mason joined them as retail director.

He says the Battersea store was the first that really took off. "Battersea was being inhabited by people who worked in the City and the West End, the new yuppie class [who] were obviously going to be sophisticated enough to be regular wine drinkers."

The basic formula has changed little in the intervening years, though Majestic's progress has been more chequered. The company embarked on an ill-fated Californian venture in the mid-1980s, prompting Mason to leave to set up Wizard Wine.

He failed to realise how sharply property prices had moved and was soon struggling, having started Wizard without enough money. He was rescued by one of his customers — John Apthorp, who ran the Bejam frozen food chain. Bejam bought Wizard in 1987, but was itself taken over by Iceland shortly afterwards.

Apthorp bought Wizard back from Iceland, bringing Mason and Tim How, then Bejam's managing director, along to run it. In 1991 Wizard was able to buy Majestic, in trouble once again, for £2.5 million. Wizard soon rebranded its own stores as Majestic, and set about its expansion.

Mason admits that his trading strengths are not matched by his ability to run organisations. Still, with better luck and timing, he might already have made a lot of money from wine warehouses. But it is Apthorp who has scooped the lion's share of the rewards from Majestic. The Apthorp family's holding is currently worth more than £20 million. Mason's holdings of shares and options promise him a comfortable retirement rather than significant wealth.

Mason expresses no regrets, and is delighted that Majestic is now a quoted company. "It's fabulous to give a value and a meaning to all the years of hard work," he says.

Salaries in the wine trade are modest — Mason is Majestic's second-highest paid director on £42,500 a year. The rewards lie elsewhere. "Buying and selling wine is a nice business, and it attracts nice people," he says. "I've got friends who earn six-figure salaries who work in the computer industry or in insurance businesses, and they think, 'God, it must be bloody wonderful'. Compared with what they have to do, I suppose it is."

HIDDEN ASSETS

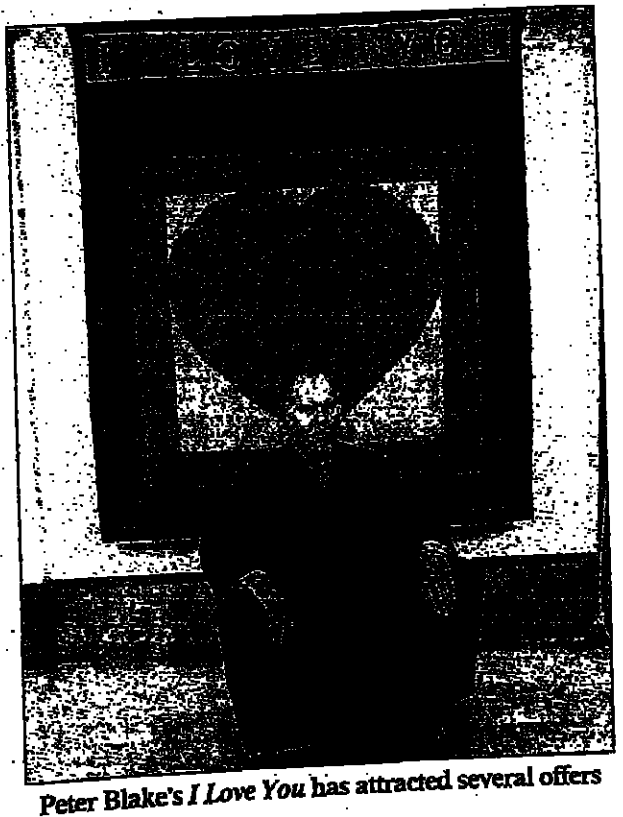
The gallery where art lovers can jet in for a flying visit

Joanna Pitman says BA's collection improves journeys from Heathrow

Imagine a modern gallery space, large, well lit, quiet and furnished with comfortable chairs and cafeterias, that is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and is guaranteed 1,000 wealthy visitors a day, 3,000 on peak days. Not a bad place to show your wares if you are an up-and-coming artist. In fact, the gallery has just opened, in Heathrow Terminal 4, in British Airways's business, first class and Concorde lounges.

And this is real art, not lamentable wallpaper art in non-contentious pastels, which you normally try to avoid looking at in airport lounges. BA has quietly gathered over the years an interesting collection of works by living British artists, which have been hidden in the chairman's office and in boardrooms and lounges, lost somewhere within the myriad of BA buildings scattered around Heathrow. The collection is a fine one, with works by Bridget Riley, Paul Huxley, John Hoyland, David Nash and Sean Scully, all recognised artists of the Seventies and Eighties whose delicate work has stood the harsh tests of time.

British Airways has now decided to excavate its collection, as it were, to retrieve it from boardrooms and offices and hang it where its most precious customers can see it — in the executive lounges. In addition, the company has borrowed a range of works by other contemporary artists, on loan from a number of London galleries and from the Royal College of Art. With the help of Artwise, the art consultancy, the company plans to open up all of its 180 lounges around the world to collections by living local artists.



Peter Blake's *I Love You* has attracted several offers

The collections will be changed every six months so that executive travellers who are regular visitors to London will have the benefit of a living gallery that is constantly changing. Heathrow Terminal 4 lounges are the first to be adapted as gallery space, currently with a selection of works dominated by Peter Blake, the associate artist of the National Gallery.

Within days of his tapestries, paintings and prints being hung, travellers were asking whether they could buy them and take them, there and then. One pop tapestry entitled *I Love You* has attracted several offers from businessmen, perhaps feeling guilty on their way home from a long business trip.

As yet they are not for sale, but intended for display and for the edification of BA passengers and staff. Guaranteed to gladden jet-lagged eyes is the clutch of wonderful jewel-like works from the brush of Howard Hodgkin — these have somehow escaped the eagle eye of the curator at the current Hayward Gallery show. There is a huge John Piper tapestry hanging over the entrance to the lounge, there are two substantial works by Dame Elisabeth Frink and two impressive prints by David Hockney. Eduardo Paolozzi is included, as is Paula Rego.

The works speak mainly of contentment and joy. Some are calm, some are boisterously lively. Many of the Blakes are finely detailed works and the current display includes elements of his well-known Alphabet. There are eight works by Eileen Cooper, on loan from the Jason Rhodes Gallery, all monumental in scale but also joyful lyrical pieces.

Of course, in every location the art has to appeal to as wide a range of international travellers as possible, and overtly political or religious themes must be avoided. To appeal to all and avoid being bland is not easy. But Artwise has managed to include plenty of tone and temper in its first hang. If you are a business class traveller, be sure to leave plenty of time before your flight to appreciate the show.

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STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Share prices breach 4,200 for first time

SHARE prices on both sides of the Atlantic hit fresh highs, with London breaching 4,200 for the first time.

Turnover in London reached more than 1.2 billion shares in a day of mixed trading that saw the FT-SE 100 index halve an early 21 point lead to close 10.2 higher at a record 4,207.7. That stretches the rise on the week to 118.2.

The boost to turnover came from the expiry of the FT-SE 100 index options, which had dealers scrambling to cover short positions before the deadline. Once the options had expired, the profit-takers moved in and left prices closing below their best levels of the day.

Guinness accounted for a large percentage of overall turnover, with the price retreating 4p to 432p as 266.55 million shares changed hands. LVMH, the French luxury goods group, has unloaded a large part of its 21 per cent stake in the company.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, handled the placing of 135 million shares at 414p. Guinness acquired 44 million of these, amounting to 2.3 per cent, for cancellation. Last March Guinness bought back 100 million of its own shares. LVMH continues to hold a 14.2 per cent stake.

There was further heavy turnover in **Hanson**, headed by Lord Hanson, as the price firmed 3p to 92p. A total of 46.7 million shares changed hands, with much of the demand stemming from the US before the final stage of the group's demerger programme next month.

Talk of a break-up lifted **Redland** 8½p to 342½p. Panmure Gordon, the broker, *set tongues wagging by suggesting a break-up of the business after meeting the company earlier this week.*

Panmure is convinced that the French aggregates business will be sold, paving the way for further sales, including its domestic aggregates business, which could be worth up to £350 million. Panmure has set a target price for the shares in the short term of 400p.

Worries that the rail regulator may force **Railtrack** to spend heavily on its infrastructure left the shares down 15p at 398½p. As a result, Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, has turned bearish of the stock.

There was heavy turnover in Hanson, headed by Lord Hanson

P&O fell 18p to 624p as UBS, the broker, cut its profit forecast for 1997 by £35 million to £375 million. It blamed the move on the continuing problems at the container shipping division.

Brokers warmed to a trading statement from **Storehouse**, with the price closing 17½p higher at 275p, reducing the fall on the week to 5p. The retailer reported better than expected sales growth of 14 per cent at Bhs, but trading at Mothercare proved disappointing. Brokers are still *looking for full-year pre-tax* profits of between £120 million and £123 million for the year.

Kingfisher *ended 2½p better* at 664½p after confirming plans to shed 1,200 jobs from *its 2,800 workforce at Norweb* Retailing that it bought in November. The job losses are part of the restructuring required to merge Norweb Retailing with its chain of Comet electrical stores.

Blacks Leisure, the best performing share of 1996, rose 16½p to 401½p on the back of a positive trading update. The group reported a 22 per cent increase in like-for-like sales during the first 44 weeks of the year. Nick Bubb, retail analyst, at MeesPierson, the broker, has now increased his pre-tax profits forecast for the full year from £9.25 million to £10 million.

Whispers that a line of six *million shares was overhanging* the market depressed **Rank Organisation**, which *ended the session 8½p down* at 417p. It transpired that a line of one million had passed *through the market at 421p.*

Yorkshire Electricity, one of two remaining independent regional electricity companies, retreated 3p to 830½p on profit taking. Earlier this week, the shares were pushed *sharply* higher on the back of positive comments from Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

Biocompatibles International, one of the most popular *share tips for 1996, enjoyed a* new lease of life with the price surging 42½p to 905p as one big seller withdrew from the market. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, continues to buy the shares after making Biocompatibles one of its naps for the year.

A profits warning left **Corporate Executive Search**, which is listed on the AIM, down 1¼p at 2¾p. The group, which specialises in finding jobs for executives in the high-technology and finance industries, says that half-year results this month will show a modest increase in profits. But it adds that operating profits for the full year will be substantially below last time.

Multimedia Corporation also dropped 14p to 21p on a profits warning. The group says it now expects to make losses of between £750,000 and £1 million in the second half of 1996 and plans to write down new titles.

Clyde Petroleum firmed 1½p to 123p as a war of words with Gulf Canada, the predator, continued to hot up. Gulf Canada poured scorn on the high valuation placed on Clyde by its directors, who a few months earlier had sold shares in the market. Clyde accused Gulf Canada of failing to mention share purchases made at the same time.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices in London continued to make headway, outperforming German bunds as investors made the most of the Chancellor's *decision not to raise interest* rates.

Next week the Bank of *England is scheduled to unveil* details of the next auction and that may temper demand temporarily. *But brokers are confident that there is further scope for improvement as investors become increasingly* confident about the outlook for interest rates medium term.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt put on £¼ to finish at £111 in moderate trading.

☐ **NEW YORK**: A rally in high-tech shares and a stable bond market kept Wall Street steady. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 33.48 points at 6,798.85.

Rolls-Royce rose 4p, to 233p, supported by positive comments from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Henderson Crosthwaite, the rival broker. Hoare says the shares are undervalued. Henderson says a target price of 275p is realistic. R-R has been supplying engines for Boeing and Airbus, which have seen orders pick up.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Bank of Scotland	334p	+37p	Brokers' recommendation
Southampton Leisure	151p	+105p	Returns from suspension
AIM Group	468½p	+88½p	Bumper profits
Fenchurch Insurance	70p	+4p	Agrees merger terms
Premium Underwriting	157p	+17p	Bid approaches
Lanica Trust	£14.62½	-£3	Company baffled by recent rise
Commercial Union	720½p	+41½p	Speculative buying
Corporate Executive	2¾p	-1½p	Profit warning
Biocompatibles	905p	+41½p	Renewed institutional buying

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 6798.85 (+33.48)
S&P Composite .... 773.86 (+4.11)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 18090.04 (-54.30)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 13856.40 (+25.72)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 670.08 (+0.53)

Sydney:
AO .... 2435.5 (-0.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3001.37 (+8.06)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2244.21 (+23.85)

Brussels:
General .... 11121.80 (+44.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2425.10 (+17.33)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 868.70 (+3.40)

London:
FT 30 .... 2813.7 (+2.4)
FT 100 .... 4207.7 (+10.2)
FTSE Mid 250 .... 4583.4 (+17.5)
FTSE 350 .... 2087.7 (+5.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2023.73 (+15.94)
FT All-Share .... 2061.07 (+5.81)
FT Non Financials .... 2112.72 (+5.80)
FT Fixed Interest .... 117.06 (+0.13)
FT Govt Secs .... 95.23 (+0.11)
Bargains 54116
SEAQ Volume 1226.7m
US$ .... 1.6683 (-0.0069)
German Mark .... 2.6890 (+0.0217)
Exchange Index .... 96.6 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3735
£:SDR 1.1792
RPI .... 154.4 Dec (2.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 154.2 Dec (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aquarius	174½	...
BZW Endowment Red	56	+ 1
Cadcentre	267½	...
Enterprise Vent Cap	93½	...
Epicore Network	55	...
GB Railways	287½	+ 1
Hardy Underwrng	170	- 5
Netcall	45½	...
Oxford Biomedica	57½	...
Parkwood Holdings	74½	...
Pilat Technologies	59½	...
Sheffield United	101½	...
Sunderland	745	+ 10
Sutton Harbour	132	...
Wst Brom Albion	£235	- 15

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashquay n/p (33)	2½	...
Compel Gp n/p (160)	3½	...
Pressac n/p (180)	58	+ ½
Prism Rail n/p (330)	250	+ 50
RPC n/p (142)	3½	- 1
Shaftesbury n/p (137)	24½	+ 1
Wickes n/p (150)	18	- 1½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Vero .... 185p (+11½p)
Therp Anti Inc .... 351p (+21p)
Groupe Chez Ger .... 238p (+11½p)
Biocomps Intl .... 905p (+42½p)
Courtauld Text .... 261p (+12p)
Celltech .... 605p (+25p)
Regent Inns .... 367½p (+14p)
Allen .... 291p (+26½p)
Robert Walters .... 160p (+11½p)
Storehouse .... 275p (+17½p)
SIG .... 295p (+11½p)
Caradon .... 263p (+9½p)
Glenmorangie A .... 950p (+25p)
Kewill Sys .... 604p (+15½p)
WF Elect .... 523p (+13p)
Airtours .... 827½p (+19p)
London & Man .... 436½p (+10p)

FALLS:
Forward Gp .... 150p (-15p)
Body Shop .... 178½p (-10p)
Dorling Kind .... 405p (-15p)
DFS Furniture .... 619p (-15p)
Enterprise .... 624p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Pension benefits

ONCE UPON A TIME, fund managers were middle-aged, goggle-eyed and unloved. Shy creatures, they watched bemused and slightly envious as their opposite numbers in stockbroking firms hopped into fast cars and big bonuses. Somewhere along the way, however, the mould broke and fund managers became superstars with salaries to match.

What have they done to deserve fame and fortune? Little, it seems. About five years ago, the big banks realised that the *predictable fees earned by fund managers* were a virtue compared with the volatile profits from corporate finance and share *trading. Banks went about poaching staff* and driving up salaries. At the same time, corporate governance became fashionable *and shy fund managers became media* stars, taking to task company directors for ineptitude and venality.

We should be grateful that fund managers no longer cringe before industry fat cats. But *how impressive* are these fund managers? Most are so-called active managers, picking stocks rather than tracking share indices. *However, according* to the WM Company, which measures pension fund performance, there is little evidence that stock-picking pays off consistently. *Of course, some managers do* very well some of the time, but the poor performers drag down the average. Over time, UK pension funds marginally underperform. A mere index tracker will always rank slightly higher than the median between the best and the worst.

Why then should fund managers earn so much money? For a fund worth £10 billion, a shift of 10 per cent in value is £1 billion. Put in that perspective, it is easy to see why fund managers can earn £1 million. Nevertheless, from a pensioner's point of view, it is a shocking waste of money. An index-tracking *computer* would be more reliable and cost less than the hungry fund managers.

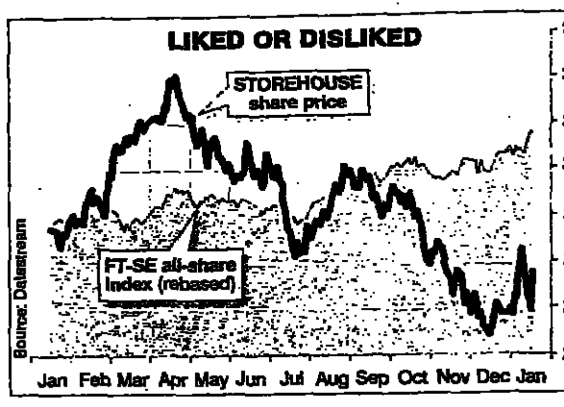
Storehouse

BUOYANT Christmas trading at Bhs lit up Storehouse yesterday. The shares floated higher but an argument about sales figures is hurting the company and some analysts cut their forecasts.

Pedestrian sales growth has long been a worry at Bhs and Mothercare, but in recent months Storehouse has attracted criticism of its presentation of sales figures. Storehouse adopted same store rather than the more familiar like-for-like reporting of sales because of its programme of extending its sales area into former stockrooms. Storehouse angrily dismisses the thrust of the criticism as rubbish and says any discrepancy will soon drop out of the year-on-year comparisons.

At the very least, the spat illustrates that the City's fascination with like-for-like sales data rests on pretty *shaky foundations.* Retailers have plenty of leeway to massage them. And although *like-for-likes may* appear in a company's annual report, auditors do not *subject them to the same* degree of scrutiny that they apply to gross sales. Marks & Spencer *does not* even bother to provide the data.

This month has seen some astonishingly harsh share price judgements (notably on Argos) in response to perhaps unexceptional but fundamentally good figures. Investors need to remember that volatility is good for the broking business and a row about sales figures is grist to *the mill.*



Shell

A CURSORY view of Shell's fascination with electricity generation suggests that the directors have lost their marbles. Having spent years painfully shedding non-core assets, why venture into another capital-intensive business with low returns? American utilities are bid*ding for generator projects in* the Third World at tiny margins over their cost of *capital. With no experience,* what value can Shell add to this business?

The answer is gas. For years Shell has been criticised for its failure to replace its production with new reserves, particularly in gas. But the company has vast discoveries, which it has yet to book in its balance sheet because it has yet to find a profitable use for the fuel. Unlike oil, gas is difficult to transport and without a commercial buyer it has no value. But electricity is transportable by wire at lowish costs. The huge Camisea gasfield in Peru, or the Kudu field in Namibia, might be made commercial with electricity generation.

Shell will need partners to build and run its power stations but even a lowish return on electricity generation would be worth the opportunity of lifting the gas from these giant fields.

Guinness

THE DECISION by LVMH to reduce its stake in Guinness could have caused further damage to the flagging Guinness share price — coming just two days after the drinks company issued a weak trading statement. But Guinness moved quickly to snap up a third of the placed shares, propping up the price.

More importantly, it removes some of the uncertainty over the relationship between the two companies. Rumours of Bernard Arnault's increasing disillusionment with Guinness began to circulate in the summer and LVMH are now committed to holding its remaining 14.2 per cent stake for at least another year. Guinness still has the cash and the legal right to buy back more shares, and the City is antici*pating a further buy-in when* the company reveals its full-year results in March. That *hope and the anticipation* of a healthy dividend increase should put a floor under the share price.

But for all the technical benefits of yesterday's deals, Guinness shares will only really take off when sales in its spirits division show signs of taking off.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	878-877	May	972-970
May	899-895	Jul	986-985
Jul	919-918	Sep	1001-995
Sep	938-937	Dec	1018-1010
Dec	947-945		
Mar	960-958		Volume: 3933

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1386-1375	Sep	1320-1318
Mar	1347-1346	Nov	1307-1300
May	1328-1327	Jan	1297-1285
Jul	1328-1327		Volume: 6590

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	299.0-97.5
Spot: 305.5		Dec	302.5-00.0
Mar	301.0-00.5	Mar	304.5-00.8
May	300.9-00.5	May	307.5-01.9
Aug	301.5-01.5		Volume: 1622

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB.	84.71	135.74	105.91
(+/-)	+11.23	-5.01	-3.93
Eng/Wales:	84.88	136.11	105.26
(+/-)	+11.45	-5.24	-4.63
(%)	-9.0	-36.0	-12.0
Scotland:	69.90	134.30	108.57
(+/-)	-4.04	-3.72	0.50
(%)	+36.0	-23.0	-4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	22.90	-0.45
Brent 15 day (Mar)	22.85	-0.40
Brent 15 day (Apr)	22.45	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	24.65	-0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	24.10	-0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	215 (-1)	216 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	224 (-4)	226 (-4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	*105 (+1)*	*107 (+1)*
Naphtha	221 (+1)	223 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	215.50-15.75	May	192.75-93.00
Mar	207.25-07.50	Jun	189.00-89.25
Apr	198.75-99.00		Vol: 14569

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	22.84-22.87	Jun	21.63 SLR
Apr	22.43-22.47	Jul	21.25 SLR
May	unq		Vol: 29526

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	91.70	Jan	90.15
Mar	93.70	Mar	92.00
May	95.70	May	92.75
Jul	97.50	Sep	91.25
Sep	91.75	Nov	93.25
Volume: 340		Volume: 0	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	50.0
Apr	58.0	54.9
May	62.0	61.5
		Volume: 179

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 73.25-78.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 97	1430	1415	1421
Feb 97	1365	1365	1365
Mar 97	1415	1401	1401
Apr 97	1443	1437	1438
Vol: 211 lots		Open Interest: 3560	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2454.0-2455.0	2255.0-2257.0	159200
Lead ($/tonne)	706.50-707.00	715.00-715.50	360125
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1118.0-1119.0	1140.0-1140.5	793150
Tin ($/tonne)	5900.0-5905.0	6035.0-6040.0	12931
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1583.0-1583.5	1614.0-1615.0	156200
Nickel ($/tonne)	7245.0-7250.0	7345.0-7350.0	36556

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	390	35	41	45½	6	13	16½
(*411½)	420	17½	24½	30	19½	27½	31½
ASDA	120	10	13½	15	3	5	7½
(*126½)	130	5	9½	10	8	10	12
Boots	600	59	66½	73	6	12½	17½
(*646½)	650	25½	36	42	21	33	38½
Br Airways	550	55½	63	71½	7½	16	19
(*591)	600	24½	34½	43	25½	37	41
BP	700	49½	53	62	22½	30½	38
(*713½)	750	19	30	39½	50½	58	65
Br Steel	140	15	16	19	2½	7	8
(*150½)	160	4½	7½	8½	12	18½	19½
C & W	460	41½	50	57½	9½	17½	22
(*485½)	500	19½	29	37	27	36	41½
CU	700	47½	59	68½	10½	39½	53
(*720½)	750	24	37	47½	60	68½	82
ICI	700	51½	59	66	19	22	31
(*736½)	750	21½	33	40	43½	47½	56½
Land Sec	750	55½	64	67½	6½	15	19
(*786½)	800	22	31½	38	23	38	42
M & S	460	48	54	59½	3½	8½	12
(*497½)	500	22	27½	35½	16½	24	27½
Nat West	750	50	65	74	22½	35	46
(*784)	800	23½	41	50½	50½	61½	72½
Safeway plc	400	30½	45	49½	7	14½	18
(*416½)	420	20½	27	33	16½	24	32
Sainsbury	390	21½	27½	32	9½	19½	21
(*399½)	420	8	14	18½	26½	36	36½
Shell	1000	57½	66½	78	24	37½	42½
(*1029½)	1050	30½	42½	53	50½	58	68½
SmKl Bch	800	44½	61½	75½	28	40	49
(*811)	850	23	39	52½	59½	67½	76
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	105½	140½	168	49	68½	86½
(*1653)	1700	57½	90½	117½	101½	119	136½
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	460	49	54½	59	13½	21	31½
(*497½)	500	24	32½	38½	32½	41	51
Vodafone	240	24	29½	34½	6	10	12½
(*259½)	260	12½	18½	24	14	19	22
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met	420	18½	30½	39	4½	11	17
(*433)	460	3	11½	20	29½	33½	38½
Ladbroke	240	8½	13½	19	5	12½	15
(*241½)	260	2	6	10½	19	25	27½
Utd Bisc	220	12½	18	21½	4½	12	14½
(*228)	240	3	8½	12½	15	23½	26

January 17, 1997 Tot: 103669 Call: 66679 Put: 36990 FTSE Call: 36044 Put: 13112
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	37½	46½	52	8½	16½	19
(*522)	550	11½	21	27½	33½	41	44½
Thames W	600	39	49	54	13	30	35½
(*617½)	650	14½	24	30	39½	59	64
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BTR	240	14½	19½	24½	3	9½	12½
(*250½)	260	5	9½	15	12½	20½	23
Br Aero	1250	62½	98	114	13	34	44½
(*1292)	1300	33½	69½	86½	33	56½	67
Br Telcom	390	31	40½	47½	3	6½	15
(*418½)	420	9	20½	29	11	16½	29½
Cadbury	460	24½	30½	38	2½	12½	17½
(*479½)	500	4½	10	19	22½	35½	39½
Guinness	420	18½	25½	31½	4	15½	19½
(*431)	460	2½	8½	14½	29	41½	44
GEC	390	17½	28	35½	4	9½	17
(*402)	420	3½	13½	20	20	25	33½
Hanson	119	13½	—	—	1½	—	—
(*131½)	136	3	—	—	8½	—	—
LASMO	240	13	20	29	6	10½	12½
(*245½)	260	4½	11	19½	17½	21½	23½
LucasVarity	200	17½	23	27½	1½	5½	7½
(*214½)	220	5½	12	17	9½	14½	19
Pilkingtn	140	9	14½	18	1½	4½	7
(*146½)	160	1	5½	8½	13½	15½	18½
Prudential	500	52	60	69½	1	10	14½
(*548)	550	16½	27½	36	14	31	35
Redland	330	20	25	33	5	16	20
(*342)	360	6	15	19	21	34	38
R-Royce	220	17½	23½	26½	4½	9½	11
(*232½)	240	7	13	16½	13½	19	21
Tesco	360	13	24½	29½	6	15½	20
(*367)	390	3	11	16½	24½	33	37
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4204)

	4100	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350
Calls						
Jan	104	54	4	0	0	0
Feb	139	100½	66½	39½	20	9
Mar	153½	119	88	65	41½	26½
Apr	173½	142	111	87	63	46½
Jun	218	—	155½	—	108	—
Puts						
Jan	0	0	0	49	96	147
Feb	23½	35	52	77	110½	155
Mar	47	61½	82	105	136½	172
Apr	67	84½	103½	129	155½	190
Jun	94	—	131	—	181	—

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	51½	64	74	26	34½	42
(*779)	800	25	40	50	54	61	68½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	47½	70	81	40½	54	65
(*1111)	1150	27½	48½	59½	72	83	94
Natl Pwr	500	31½	43	45½	16	29	34
(*510)	550	10½	20	23	45	60½	64
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	900	64½	79½	91½	22½	32½	46
(*942)	950	35	52½	65	46	56	70
HSBC	1450	79½	117	140	64	97	105
(*1469½)	1500	55½	92½	116	92	113½	134½
Reuter	650	53	63½	71½	15	25	31½
(*677)	700	27	39½	46½	38½	50½	56½
Royal & Sun	460	26½	35	42½	22	25	31
(*479½)	500	11	17½	25½	47½	50	54½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Blue Circ	390	13	22½	28½	8½	19	23
(*393)	420	2½	10	16	29½	34½	41½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Kingfishr	650	26	41½	51½	11	25½	34
(*663)	700	6½	18½	29½	39½	56½	62½
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	220	17	22	—	5	11½	—
(*229½)	240	7½	12½	—	15½	22½	—
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	38	52	56	10	17½	25½
(*525½)	550	13	26½	34½	40½	42	51
EMI Group	1200	71½	109½	124	19	42	48½
(*1241)	1250	41	77½	96	38½	57½	66½
Tarmac	90	11½	13	15	1½	4	4
(*98½)	100	6	7½	10	5½	9½	9½
Hillsdwn	180	19	22	23	1	5½	6½
(*196½)	200	5½	9½	11	9	15½	16½
Lonrho	131	9	12½	15	4½	5	7
(*127½)	130	4	7½	10	8½	10	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	20	27	31½	4½	8	13½
(*277½)	280	9	16	20½	13	16½	25
Lloyds TSB	460	23	33½	40½	10½	24	29½
(*469½)	500	6½	17	25	43	48	52
Scot Pwr	353	14	—	—	10½	—	—
(*361)	360	10½	21½	26½	14	19	27
Unilever	1350	69½	84	102	12	29	36½
(*1395½)	1400	36½	56	72	31½	51½	59

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 65641	Mar 97	4199.0	4225.0	4195.0	4207.0	16378
	Jun 97	4232.0	4232.0	4232.0	4231.0	68
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 5762	Mar 97				4631.0	0
	Jun 97					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 407539	Mar 97	93.58	93.62	93.57	93.61	15154
	Jun 97	93.35	93.37	93.33	93.36	15032
	Sep 97	93.11	93.14	93.08	93.13	9921
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97	99.41	99.41	99.41	99.41	15
	Sep 97				99.29	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1101761	Mar 97	96.92	96.93	96.91	96.93	15392
	Jun 97	96.92	96.94	96.91	96.93	14755
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 149981	Mar 97	110-21	111-08	110-18	111-00	71491
	Jun 97	110-15	110-15	110-14	110-15	100
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	125.75	125.81	125.64	125.66	1631
	Jun 97	124.33	124.38	124.33	124.23	100
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 230178	Mar 97	101.51	101.58	101.25	101.36	172675
	Jun 97	100.50	100.56	100.46	100.46	129
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 31204	Mar 97	96.00	96.02	96.00	96.03	421
	Jun 97	96.08	96.11	96.07	96.11	744
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 81075	Mar 97	98.14	98.14	98.08	98.10	12236
	Jun 97	98.09	98.09	98.05	98.06	3918
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 102375	Mar 97	130.95	131.53	130.75	131.32	47365
	Jun 97	130.52	131.00	130.41	130.87	739

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low: 5½ Week fixed: 5¹⁵⁄₁₆
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6 ; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₈	6⅛-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆	6⅝-6½	6⅞-6¹¹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½	6⅞-6¹¹⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 5¾ close 5½ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¹⁄₁₆	n/a	6⅛	6½	6¹¹⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛	6½-6⁷⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.37	n/a	5.43	5.57	5.75
Building Society CDs:	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁵⁄₃₂-6¹³⁄₃₂	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂

TREASURY BILLS: Applicts: £1,479m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.51% received: 77%; Last week: £98.48% received: 81%; Avge rate: £5.9603% last wk £6.0927%; Next week: £200 m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5⁷⁄₁₆-5⁵⁄₁₆	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2¹⁵⁄₁₆	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3½-2½
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1¾-1¼	1⁵⁄₁₆-1³⁄₁₆	1⁹⁄₁₆-1⁷⁄₁₆	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1⁹⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	¾-⅝	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $354.50-354.60 Close: $354.90-355.40 High: $355.40-355.90
Low: $353.45-353.95 AM: $354.10 PM: $355.75

Krugerrand: $354.00-357.00 (£212.00-214.00)

Platinum: $360.25 (£215.25) Silver: $4.76 (£2.845) Palladium: $122.25 (£73.05)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for January 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0069-3.0190	3.0163-3.0190	⅛-¼pr	2½-2⅛pr
Brussels	55.210-55.444	55.361-55.444	17-12pr	47-40pr
Copenhagen	10.201-10.245	10.235-10.245	¾-¼pr	⅝-¾pr
Dublin	1.0195-1.0242	1.0209-1.0227	5-1pr	13-7pr
Frankfurt	2.2768-2.6890	2.6863-2.6890	⅛-¼pr	2½-2pr
Lisbon	266.88-267.46	267.13-267.46	¼-⅛ds	½-¾ds
Madrid	223.33-224.11	223.89-224.11	5-6ds	11-30ds
Milan	2600.7-2609.3	2605.6-2609.3	23-39ds	46-69ds
Montreal	2.2311-2.2458	2.2329-2.2351	0.62-0.56pr	1.17-1.09pr
New York	1.6675-1.6750	1.6675-1.6665	0.113-0.92pr	0.318-0.287pr
Oslo	10.553-10.582	10.568-10.578	¾-¼pr	⅞-½pr
Paris	9.0260-9.0650	9.0587-9.0650	2½-2⅛pr	6½-6⅛pr
Stockholm	11.653-11.734	11.715-11.734	⅞-½pr	⅞-¼pr
Tokyo	194.98-195.96	195.23-195.51	⅞-¼pr	2⅝-2⅛pr
Vienna	18.834-18.917	18.897-18.917	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-¼ds
Zurich	2.3146-2.3259	2.3232-2.3259	⅝-½pr	2⅝-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2794-1.2802
Austria	11.31-11.32
Belgium (Com)	33.16-33.20
Canada	1.3387-1.3392
Denmark	6.1317-6.1337
France	5.4240-5.4260
Germany	*1.6086-1.6093*
Hong Kong	7.7383-7.7388
Ireland	1.6335-1.6345
Italy	1560.98-1563.98
Japan	117.14-117.19
Malaysia	2.4838-2.4848
Netherlands	1.8074-1.8079
Norway	6.3323-6.3343
Portugal	159.90-160.30
Singapore	1.4050-1.4060
Spain	134.10-134.20
Sweden	7.0168-7.0218
Switzerland	1.3894-1.3899

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6695-1.6722
Australia dollar	2.1359-2.1399
Bahrain dinar	0.626-0.638
Brazil real*	1.7459-1.7504
China yuan	*13.741-14.041*
Cyprus pound	0.796-0.806
Finland markka	7.925-8.041
Greece drachma	414.0-421.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.9168-12.9253
India rupee	59.71-60.67
Indonesia rupiah	3939.0-4007.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.499-0.509
Malaysia ringgit	4.1460-4.1501
New Zealand dollar	*2.3533-2.3564*
Pakistan rupee	66.70 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.040-6.164
Singapore dollar	2.3452-2.3483
S Africa rand (com)	7.791-7.895
U A E dirham	6.0925-6.2165

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,300	Lloyds TSB	19,800
ASDA Gp	9,300	LucasVarity	3,500
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Marks Spr	7,700
Allied Dom	8,500	Mercury Asset	299
Argos	805	NatWst Bk	2,500
AB Foods	2,000	Nat Grid	7,900
BAA	4,200	Ntl Power	3,900
BAT Inds	7,800	Next	1,700
BOC	1,800	Orange	2,600
BP	4,100	P & O	8,300
BSkyB	4,700	*Pearson*	2,900
BTR	10,000	PowerGen	1,500
BT	12,400	Prudential	5,500
Bk of Scot	4,700	RMC	1,500
Barclays	8,200	RTZ	4,409
Bass	1,100	Railtrack	3,800
Blue Circle	1,600	Rank Group	6,900
Boots	3,500	Reckitt Col	1,000
BAe	2,200	Redland	4,700
BA	4,200	Reed Intl	1,800
Brit Gas	12,500	Rentokil	5,300
Brit Steel	11,900	Reuters	6,900
Burmah Cstl	1,500	Rolls Royce	9,300
Burton	3,400	Royal & Sun	4,800
Cable Wire	5,000	Royal Bk Sct	8,100
Cadbury	2,400	Safeway	2,500
Carlton Cms	7,900	Sainsbury	5,200
Cm Union	1,600	Schroders	177
Dixons	3,600	Scot & New	2,100
EMI	1,500	Scot Power	1,600
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Svrn Trent	468
GKN	1,800	Shell Trans	4,000
GRE	3,900	Siebe	1,700
GUS	3,100	SmKl Bch	2,800
Gen Acc	1,000	Smith Nph	2,900
Gen Elec	4,000	Smiths Inds	1,300
Glaxo Well	4,500	Std Chartd	1,400
Granada	2,600	TI Gp	1,600
Grand Met	7,600	Tate & Lyle	863
Guinness	266,600	Tesco	2,400
HSBC	1,800	Thames W	852
Hanson	46,800	Tomkins	4,300
Hays	2,300	Unilever	1,500
ICI	2,800	Utd Utilities	5,400
Imp Tob	3,300	Utd News	1,600
Kingfisher	1,600	Vodafone	3,100
LASMO	4,900	Whitbread	799
Ladbroke	8,600	Wilms Hld	2,800
Land Secs	757	Wolseley	674
Legal & Gn	7,600	*Zeneca*	1,200

WALL STREET

	Jan 17 midday	Jan 16 close
AMP Inc	42½	42½
AMR Corp	84½	83¾
ASA	34¼	34¼
AT & T	38	38¾
Abbott Labs	54¼	55½
Advanced Micro	34¼	34
Aetna Life	76¼	76½
Ahmanson (HF)	35¼	34¾
Air Prod & Chem	71½	71½
AirTouch Comm	26½	26½
Alberto-Culver B	50¾	50¾
Albertson's	35¼	35½
Alcan Aluminm	36¾	36¼
Alco Standard	45	45¼
Allied Signal	71½	70¾
Alum Co of Am	72¼	71½
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	6¼
Amerada Hess	60¾	60¾
Amer Brands	51½	50¾
Amer El Power	42½	42
Amer Express	59¾	58½
Amer Genl Corp	40¾	40¼
Amer Home Pr	61½	61½
Amer Intl	113½	114
Amer Stores	41½	41½
Amer Standard	43¾	42¼
Ameritech	60¾	59¾
Amoco	85¼	85¾
Anheuser-Busch	42¾	42¼
Apple Computer	16½	16¼
Archer Daniels	21½	21½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	69¾	70
Asarco	27¼	27¼
Atl Richfield	136½	137
Auto Data Pro	44¼	44
Avery Dennison	35¾	35½
Avon Products	57¼	57½
Baker Hughes	39¾	40½
Baltm Gas & El	27	26½
Banc One	44¾	45
BankAmerica	105¾	105¾
Bank of NY	35	34¾
Bankers Tr NY	84¾	84½
Barnett Banks	41½	41½
Bausch & Lomb	34½	34½
Baxter Intl	43¾	44
Bectn Dickinsn	46¾	46½
Bell Atlantic	66¾	66½
Bell Industries	23½	23½
BellSouth	42	41½
Black & Decker	32	31½
Block (H&R)	30¼	30
Boeing	106	105¾
Boise Cascade	37½	36¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	122¼	120¾
Browning Ferris	28¾	28¼
Brunswick	25¼	25¾
Burlington Nthn	87¼	88
CMS Energy Corp	33½	33¼
CNA Financial	102½	103
CPC Intl	81	80¾
CSX	46½	45
Campbell Soup	81½	81
Can Pacific	27	26½
Carolina Pwr	37½	37
Caterpillar	77½	77¼
Central & SW	25¼	25½
Champion Intl	46¼	46¼
Chase Manhat	91¼	90¾
Chevron Corp	68	68½
Chrysler	34¾	34½
Chubb Corp	55½	54½
Cigna Corp	148¾	147
Citicorp	106¼	106¼
Clorox	105¾	104¼
Coastal Corp	50¾	50¾
Coca Cola	57½	57¼
Coca Cola Ent	52½	52¼
Colgate-Palmolive	95½	94¼
Columbia Gas	64¼	63¾
ColumbiaHCA	39¾	39¾
Compaq Comp	78¼	79¾
Comp Ass Intl	45	44¾
Conagra	51½	51½
Conrail	103¾	103½
Cons Edison	30½	30¾
Cons Nat Gas	57¾	56¾
Cooper Inds	42¾	42¾
Corestates	51½	51½
Corning Inc	36½	36½
Crown Cork	56½	55½
Dana Corp	34½	34½
Dayton Hudson	38	38½
Deere	42¾	42¼
Delta Air Lines	78¼	78½
Deluxe Corp	31½	30¾
Digital Equip	39¾	36½
Dillard Dept St	31	30¾
Disney (Walt)	69¼	68¾
Dominion Res	39¼	39¼
Donelley (RR)	31	31
Dover Corp	49¼	50¾
Dow Chemical	81½	81½
Dow Jones	40¾	40¼
Dresser	35¼	35½
Duke Power	46½	46¼
Dun & Bradstreet	24½	24½
Du Pont	110¼	108¼
Eastman Chem	56	55½
Eastman Kodak	84¼	85½
Eaton Corp	69½	68¼
Edison Intl	20¾	20½
Elect Data Sys	48½	47¼
Emerson Elec	101½	100½
Engelhard Corp	20½	20¼
Enron Corp	44½	44¼
Entergy	27¾	27½
Ethyl Corp	10¼	10¼
Exxon	102¾	103¼
FMC Corp	71½	71½
FPL Group	45½	45½
Fannie Mae	39½	39½
First Union Rlty	13½	13½
Fleet Finl Grp	51½	51½
Fluor Corp	68	68¼
Ford Motor	33	33
GTE Corp	45½	45
Gannett	74¼	74½
Gap Inc Del	30¾	30½
Gencorp	18¼	18¼
Gen Dynamics	71½	70½
Gen Electric	103	101½
Gen Mills	64¾	64½
Gen Motors	59¾	60½
Gen Reinsurance	154½	153½
Gen Signal	45¾	45½
Genuine Parts	44½	44
Georgia Pac	78	77¼
Gillette	82½	81½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	31½	31½
Goodrich (BF)	39½	39½
Goodyear Tire	54½	54½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31½	31½
Great Wstn Fin	31½	31
Halliburton	72	73½
Harcourt General	47¼	46½
Heinz (HJ)	40¼	40
Hercules	46½	46½
Hershey Foods	45¼	44½
Hewlett Packard	54½	54½
Hilton Hotels	25½	25½
Home Depot	50¼	49¾
Homestake Mng	14½	13¾
Honeywell	71	67½
Household Intl	91¼	90½
Houston Inds	23	23¼
Humana	17¼	17¼
ITT Corp	42¼	42¾
Illinois Tool	80¼	79¾
Illinova	26½	27½
INCO	34½	34½
Ingersoll Rand	44½	44½
Inland Steel	20¼	20¾
Intel Corp	145	142½
IBM	168¾	165¾
Intl Flav & Fr	45½	44½
Intl Paper	42¾	42¾
James River Va	35½	35½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	51½	51¾
Kellogg	66½	66½
Kerr-McGee	73¾	74
Kimberly-Clark	100¾	101½
Kmart	11½	11
Knight-Ridder	39½	38¾
Lilly (Eli)	80½	79¾
Limited Inc	17½	17¾
Lincoln Nat	52½	52
Litton	46½	46½
Liz Claiborne	39½	39¾
Lockheed Martin	89¾	89½
Louisiana Pac	21½	21½
MCI Comm	35	35
Manpower Inc	32½	33
Marriott Int	52	51½
Marsh & McLnn	106½	106
Masco Corp	34½	34½
May Dept St	45¾	45¾
Maytag Corp	21½	21½
McDonalds	45¼	44½
McDonnell D	65¾	65½
McGraw Hill	48¼	48¼
Mead Corp	61½	61½
Medtronic	66¼	66¼
Mellon Bk	73¾	73½
Merck Inc	85½	84¾
Merrill Lynch	82½	80¼
Microsoft	87¾	86
Minnesota Mine	85¾	85¾
Mobil Corp	130½	131½
Monsanto	38¾	37½
Morgan (JP)	101	101
Motorola Inc	69¼	68¾
Natl Semi	26¾	26¾
Natl Service Ind	38¾	39¼
Navistar Int	10	9½
NY Times A	39¼	39
Newmont Mng	40	39¼
Niag Mohawk	10¼	10½
Nike B	62	61½
NL Industries	12¼	12¼
Noram Energy	15½	15½
Nordstrom	38¼	38¼
Norfolk Sthrn	88½	88½
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47
Norwest Corp	46¼	46¼
Nynex Corp	49½	49¾
Occidental Pet	25¾	25¾
Ohio Edison	22½	22¼
Oracle	42½	41¼
Oryx Energy Co	25¼	25½
Overseas Ship	17¼	17½
Owens Corning	48¼	48
PHH Corp	45¾	45¼
PPG Industries	54¼	53¾
PNC Bank	38¼	38¼
PP&L Res	23½	23¼
Paccar Inc	65½	65¼
Pacificorp	20¾	20½
Pac Enterprises	30½	30¾
Pac Telesis	37½	37¼
Pall Corp	25¾	25½
Parker Hannifin	41½	40¾
Peco Energy	25½	25½
Penney (JC)	48¼	48¼
Pennzoil	61½	61¼
Pepsico	30¼	30¼
Pfizer	88¼	87¼
Pharm & Upjhn	40¼	40½
Phelps Dodge	74¾	73½
Philip Morris	113½	114¼
Phillips Pet	46½	46¼
Pitney Bowes	57½	55½
Polaroid	45½	46
PriceCostco	27	26¾
Procter & Gmbl	113½	111½
Providian	50¾	51
Pub Serv E & G	28¼	28½
Quaker Oats	38¾	39
Ralston Purina	78¾	77¼
Raychem Corp	85½	84¾
Raytheon	48¼	48½
Reebok Intl	41¼	41½
Reynolds Metals	63½	63½
Rockwell Intl	62½	62
Rohm & Haas	83½	83½
Royal Dutch	173½	174½
Rubbermaid	23¼	23¼
SBC Comms	52¾	51¾
Safeco Corp	36¾	37½
St Paul's Cos	62	60¾
Salomon Inc	48½	47¾
Sara Lee Corp	37½	37
Schering Plough	71	70½
Schlumberger	114	115½
Seagram	42½	42
Sears Roebuck	49½	49¾
Shell Trans	103½	104¼
Sherwin Wlms	55½	55
Skyline Corp	24¼	24½
Snap-On-Tools	37	36½
Southern Co	22½	22½
Sprint Corp	39¾	39½
Stanley Works	37½	36½
Sun Company	25¾	25
Sun Microsys	31½	31¼
Suntrust	49¾	49¾
Supervalu	30½	29¾
Sysco Corp	31½	32
TRW Inc	53	52½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	13½	12½
Tandy Corp	42¼	42½
Temple Inland	56¼	55¾
Tenneco	45½	44½
Texaco	106½	105¾
Texas Inst	66½	66½
Texas Utilities	41¼	41½
Textron	94	93¾
Time Warner	38½	37
Times-Mirror A	50½	50¾
Timken	47¾	47½
Torchmark	51½	51½
Toys R Us	30¼	30
Transamerica	81½	81½
Travelers	49¾	48½
Tribune	38¾	38¼
Tyco Int	58¼	58½
UST Inc	31½	31¼
UAL	58¾	59¼
US Inds	33½	33¾
US West Comm	33¾	34½
US West Media	17½	18
USX Marathon	27½	27¼
Unicom	27½	27½
Unilever NV	172	174
Union Camp	51½	52
Union Carbide	43¼	43½
Union Pacific	62½	62½
Unisys Corp	7½	7½
USAIR Group	24¾	23¾
USF&G Corp	21½	21¾
US Life	35½	35½
United Tech	67½	67¼
Unocal Corp	43¾	44
VF Corp	68¼	68
WMX Tech	33¼	33½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23¼
Warner-Lambert	77½	77¼
Wells Fargo	279¼	278½
Westinghouse El	19½	19½
Weyerhaeuser	50	49¾
Whirlpool	49½	49¾
Whitman	23	22½
Winn Dixie	32	31½
Woolworth	21½	21
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57¼	57½
Xerox	57¾	56½
Yellow Corp	16½	16½

هكذا من الأصل

SHARES 36

Food stores safe in uncertain times

WEEKEND MONEY

SOCIETIES 38

Woolwich savers left out in cold

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Battle to win investors' votes

ANGUS MEWSE

Gavin Lumsden and **Anne Ashworth** check out a new wave of Pep products being offered ahead of the election

While the Prime Minister ponders the most propitious date for the general election, the financial services industry is busy making money out of the political uncertainty.

Legal & General and Lloyds *have launched schemes this* week that they claim will help *investors to survive any decline* in the market that could follow a Labour victory, or the vicissitudes of a hung Parliament.

Insurance companies are also trying to anticipate pension reforms that could be passed by Labour, attempting to show that they can provide *pensions at low cost* (see below).

As this election-inspired personal equity plan (Pep) and pension sales drive gets into full swing, investors seeking specific guidance on the election's impact on share values will be disappointed to learn that there is little consensus among analysts on the direction of the market if Tony Blair, the Labour leader, *moves into No 10.*

Many maintain that a Lab*our victory* has already been priced into the market and still expect shares to rise 10 per cent this year. Others believe that shares would start to fall only if Labour made a highly unpopular move after some months in office.

Labour is making every effort to please private investors and City institutions alike ahead of the polls, without making any specific policy *statements. The party has* been making much of its desire to offer affordable pensions to the 11 million people currently not in occupational schemes. *It also wants to* encourage millions more to save with flexible independent savings accounts.

This week Michael O'Brien, Labour City spokesman, restated his party's commitment to economic stability and low inflation, words intended to reassure those who remember the last time Labour was in *power.*

But despite Mr O'Brien's soothing words, Legal & General expects that the index will tumble if his party gains power. More surprisingly, in a week when the index continued to hit new records, the company is also pessimistic about *the market's chances, even if* John Major is returned to *power. L&G analysts believe* that a hung Parliament would spell volatility, while a small Labour majority would mean in-fighting on the Labour front and back benches, also leading to market nervousness.

A large majority for Mr Blair, says L&G, would knock share values because there would be fears of radical *action. If Mr Major were to be* re-elected, his party would *continue* to be plagued by dissent over Europe — also bad news for the index.

For those alarmed by all these predictions, L&G's new General Election Pep offers a seemingly irresistible 140 per cent of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares over five years, plus the return of the capital invested.

L&G claims that its Pep minimises the risk of a market *fall because it will take the* average level of the index in the first 12 months of the five-year period of the Pep as its starting point, and the last 12-month average as its ending point.

Taking a 12-month average would normally halve the sum you could expect to receive. But *L&G predicts that the market* will fall this year and says that *the average level and starting* point could be below its present level, around 4,207.

The lower the figure, it argues, the more potential for growth, without the exposure to large one-day falls. So if the FT-SE 100 rises to an average price of 6,400 in its last 12 *months of the five-year period* you would get 61.2 per cent *return. When multiplied by the* promised 140 per cent this gives a total return of 85.7 per cent. That may sound attractive, but the figures bear closer examination.

Like all other "protected" schemes linked to the *FT-SE* 100, the election Pep relies *solely on capital growth,* which has averaged about 7.5 *per cent a year since the* 1920s, much less than the total return, which includes dividend income, of 11.9 per cent. No income is paid out.

If the market does not fall this year, the effect of the averaging loses you six months' performance at each end of the term of the Pep. This means that overall you lose *one year's potential growth,* which means that the true *term of the Pep is four years,* not five.

Over four years and multiplied by 140 per cent, the capital return works out at 42 per cent. Convert this back into an annual rate and the result is 7.1 per cent, slightly less than the average 7.5 per cent growth *figure for the market.*

You might conclude that this *middling return is not much* compensation for having your money locked up for five years. You may also wonder why, if you are receiving no income, you should be investing in a Pep the principal attraction of which is the shelter it provides against income tax and capital gains tax.

L&G has also extended the *election idea to its pensions* range, with a five-year Guaranteed Equity Fund. Here it could make sense if you are planning to retire soon and want to protect your gains to date.

The new Safety First fund from the unit trust arm of Lloyds offers a fixed minimum price for your investment, protecting against sharp falls in *share prices.*

The starting Safety price is 90.25p. *A new price will be set* each year if the market rises, but not at a lower level than the initial Safety price. Similar funds have been launched by Govett, NatWest and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

If you are truly alarmed by the possible impact of a Labour victory on your wealth, you might be better off in a fund *that does not lock you in for* such a long period. You can *take shelter for a while and* venture out again if everything seems calm.

Election shadow, page 36

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Low-cost pensions in the pipeline

Labour has traditionally been regarded as the enemy of the personal pension, partly because it objects to the high fees deducted from premiums.

As the party has no intention of relying only on the *state* pension, there is little chance of per*sonal pensions being scrapped* altogether should Labour form *the next* government. Some of the party's more traditional-minded members would like to see a national pension fund set up to invest in ethical and government projects.

However, the new guard are planning a "stakeholder pen*sion" to replace the state* earnings related pension *scheme* (Serps), the additional state scheme, and to rival personal plans. These would be provided through partnerships between the State and the private sector, with an emphasis on low cost and simplicity. The plans would have built-in *life insurance.* Savings plans would also be *encouraged.*

Marc Hommel, a director of Liberty International Pensions, said that John Denham, Labour's pensions spokesman, has been careful to talk about partnership schemes with the private sector.

Mr Hommel says that any government, be it Conservative or Labour *run, will have to* consider abolishing the rules *that limit the amount of tax*-free pension contributions a taxpayer can make. "It makes

Continued on page 32, col 4

Case for cash from Gas

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Investors normally have a duty to promote *the long-term health of the* business they jointly own. But there *are exceptions. British Gas* shareholders have to decide what to do about one next *month.* For the clearest case arises when officialdom is bent on a company's financial destruction.

This policy is embodied in the 1995 Gas Act, which left the group's supply business liable for about £30 *billion of* uneconomic contracts, and in the later Ofgas plan to force *BG's Transco pipe*line business to subsidise competition. Worst of all, this *policy is bipartisan.*

The 1.7 million victims at least have a perfect response *to party* canvassers asking for our vote at the general *election. Whether* they are Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat, just say *"Sorry, I am* a British Gas shareholder".

In the first eight years, shares in the *privatised monopoly* performed in line with the UK market average, even a *little better* during the recession: no "excess" profits. During the past two *years, the share* average has risen 30 per cent; British Gas shares have fallen roughly the same. At 223p, Merrill Lynch's European utilities team still says: "British Gas strikes us as the most overvalued in our research universe."

Few investors would choose to back either of the group's two big regulated businesses from scratch. British Gas Trading, which supplies 19 million *customers* with gas, faces a progressive loss of market share with no upside and *low margins.* Costs are bound to stay higher than newcomers' and pension *costs will soon* rise by £35 million a year. To complete the happy picture, it still has "take-or-pay" contracts to buy gas at above today's prices, signed when it had to supply all the gas people wanted. On best estimates, which could be wildly wrong, these contracts have a value to shareholders of about minus £2.5 billion. Kindly oil companies might cancel them for £1 billion less.

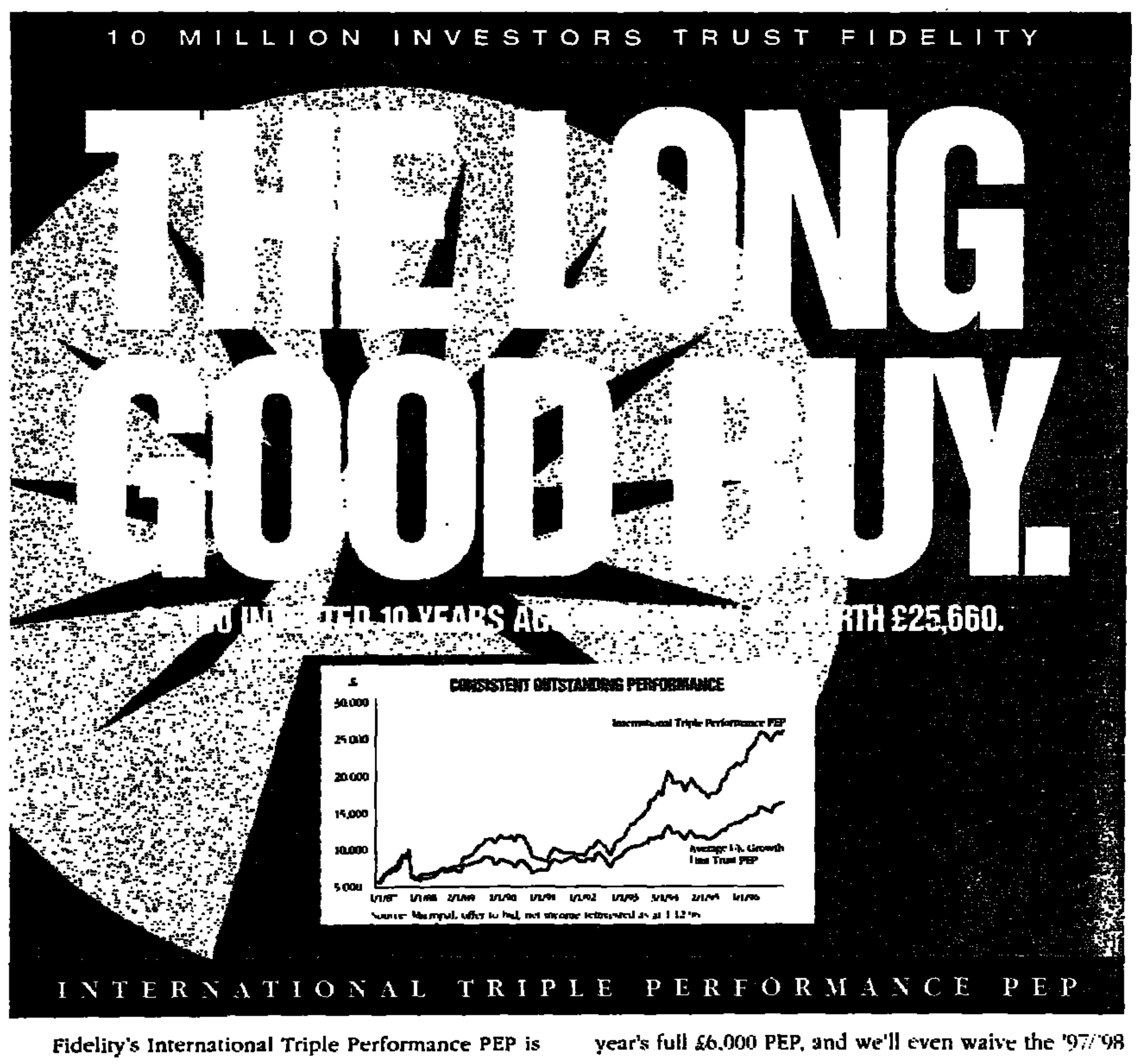
The TransCo pipeline and storage business, hitherto the big steady earner, faces sustained regulatory attack. This aims to cut £400 million off profit and then to set annual cost-cutting *targets* that British Gas believes, rightly or wrongly, cannot safely be *made.* Without help from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, *due to report in* April, the business will become risky as well as *low-profit. Ofgas seems to* reckon that the remaining equity should be progressively *eliminated.*

In this crazy situation, shareholders want their board to withdraw *as much* equity as possible. Tax permitting, it should hive off *British Gas oil and gas* production assets before these too are lost. At prices *now* being paid, unregulated businesses must be worth £4 billion of *the group's £9 billion market* value. The cost of take-or-pay contracts would *ideally be met* by drawing debt on TransCo, which even Ofgas reckons *to be worth* £11.7 billion gross. TransCo's net profits should all go in *dividends,* since no expansion is justified. Once TransCo is debt-laden, Ofgas would have little equity left to eliminate: it *must* allow reasonable finance costs.

The board, by contrast, aims to restructure British Gas in its best long-term trading interest — normally commendable. It wants to demerge British Gas Trading, as officialdom wishes, to compete independently in a wider utility service market. *Sadly,* Trading *would* be insolvent on its own. So the prize *Morecambe* Bay gasfields, worth £2 billion to £2.5 billion, are thrown in to form the new quoted vehicle Centrica, already nicknamed Cedrica. Management is likely to unwind gas deals in exchange for most of Morecambe.

Good money is being thrown after bad. Dividends from the rump BG plc will be roughly halved and Centrica will pay nothing. The plan, designed to cope with the "take-or-pay" problem, is out of date. *But management is stretched and* committed, and things are now so bad *that it cannot borrow more on TransCo* at much better than junk ratings.

If controlling fund managers go *along with the board,* small investors will have two risky shares in*stead of one.* Pessimists should sell ahead of the split. But risk means things *can go right too, so optimists* can hope. British Gas might escape a Labour levy. *Centrica is expected to start trading at* about 45p a share, but has speculative *value. If gas contracts* are dealt with, it would appeal to a power generator that *wanted* a huge, nationwide distributor. Worth keeping for a while. BG is at the *mercy* of the MMC. If Sir Graeme Odgers, its commonsense chairman, has the courage to reject neo-socialist Ofgas economics and official solidarity, he will at least insist that TransCo be allowed enough profit for market value to match regulatory value. The City thinks he won't. Over to you Sir Graeme.



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BARCLAYS BANK

Credit cards can save holders from embarrassing moments but rates vary and it may pay to switch to another issuer

Transatlantic temptation

Gavin Lumsden on the attraction of switching to US credit cards

If your credit card is suffering a Christmas spending hangover you could switch to a card with a lower rate. Many small issuers, particularly the US firms such as MBNA International and Capital One, are trying to make the switch as easy as possible and are offering low introductory rates to tempt you across. They want to break the stranglehold of the seven high street banks which dominate 85 per cent of the credit card market in the UK despite their high charges.

The latest challenge is from RBS Advanta, a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Scotland and Advanta, a US credit card issuer, which is offering an introductory rate of 9.9 APR on its standard and gold Visa cards until January 1998. The APR will then rise to 8.88 per cent above the base rate, currently 6 per cent. On today's terms this would give an APR of 15.9 per cent for purchases and 18.3 per cent for cash advances, much better than the 20-plus per cent rates available from the high street issuers. In addition there is no annual fee and 56 days' interest-free credit.

RBS Advanta claims switching to them could save you up to £99 this year if you are currently borrowing £1,000 on a credit card from a bank.

The most expensive is Barclaycard Standard Visa. Borrow £2,000 with it this year and it will cost you £189 more than with RBS Advanta and £278 more on £3,000. There are similar savings to be had ditching the Visa and Access cards issued by the Midland, Lloyds, NatWest and TSB.

High charging is not restricted to the banks, however. With 20.9 per cent APR on purchases, the GM Visa Card comes out £88 more expensive on £1,000, £176 on £2,000 and £265 on £3,000.

But Rod Urquhart, managing director of People's Bank Connecticut, one US issuer that has not yet succumbed to making a low-cost offer, says that borrowers could get a shock when the offers end and the APR jumps suddenly. The People's Bank APR is currently 14.4 per cent and there is no annual fee.

To make its argument even more compelling RBS Advanta has also implemented a "transfer and save" service. Once you have filled in the one-page application form and had your creditworthiness scrutinised, the company will send you a card, a PIN number and four cheques. You can then start your account by sending off a cheque or if this is too much effort ring up with your PIN number.

Mark Austin, planning and development manager at RBS Advanta, says you can also use the cheques to pay off large bills from doctors, solicitors or architects who would not normally accept credit cards. However, there is no cheque guarantee card.

He encourages people to keep their original card going and to pay it off via the phone with the RBS Advanta card. This way you can maintain perks such as air miles and still benefit from a lower rate. There are no plans to add these perks to RBS Advanta, says Mr Austin. "It is much more important that people get a better price," he says.

Mr Urquhart disagrees. He advises people cut up their old cards and avoid the complication of dealing with two balances. But whatever you do you can't lose, he says. "The big winner is the consumer."

Low-cost pensions may spark price war

Continued from page 31

no sense to allow a person under 30 earning £10,000 to put only 17.5 per cent of their earnings into a pension plan," he said. "That will not provide them with a sensible amount to live on when they retire. Both parties will need to look at encouraging people to make better provision for their old age."

Meanwhile, the pensions market is already changing, in anticipation of a new occupant at No Ten. Suddenly everyone is eager to offer politically correct low-cost pensions, a development that seems likely to result in a price war, reducing charges. After last week's launch by Eagle Star of a no-frills pension plan, Liberty Life will, on Monday, unveil details of its new pension. Liberty pledges that its costs will be as low as those of Eagle Star and Virgin.

Mr Hommel believes that in time traditional pension providers will be forced to reduce and clarify charges. "The long-established companies are going to have to change to survive," he said. "They have unsustainable cost structures, a poor public image, technology which is out of date, and the baggage of old products and systems."

He believes pensions of the future will have to be low-cost and flexible, but will still need to tie up money for 25 years. "Temptation being what it is, people would tend to spend the money they had saved up unless it was out of their grasp. Nevertheless, pension providers will need to allow people to take premium holidays, and reduce or increase premiums regularly without penalty. The workforce is changing and so are working patterns."

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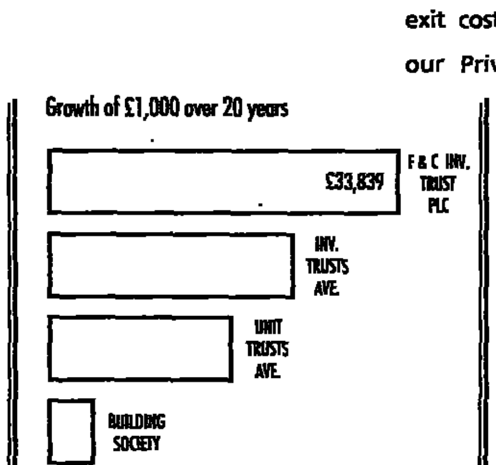

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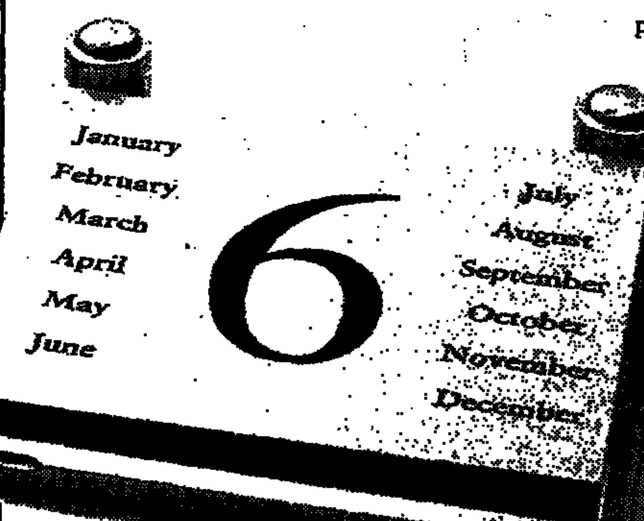

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Far from amicable proposal in disguise

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

One major qualification for advancement at an insurance company has always been the ability to yawn with your mouth shut. But besides being able to disguise boredom, the *aspiring* senior executive must also possess a talent for tortuous language. The ability to present facts in an *unintelligible* manner, while making much of your commitment to plain English, is an essential weapon in the never-ending campaign to keep customers in the dark.

Scottish Amicable has this week announced its plan to shed its mutual status and become a quoted company in a two-stage process (see page 39). One would think a crack obscurantist team has been at work on the proposals to ensure that the policyholders do not guess that they are getting a poor deal and give a resounding "yes" to the proposals.

Unlike its fellow mutual, the Norwich Union, Scottish Amicable has decided not to offer shares to its 1.1 million with-profits policyholders who are the owners of the business. Instead, it has decided to distribute two sets of bonuses to be added to policies at demutualisation and at flotation, in an attempt to appear doubly generous.

The figures, however, tell a different story. The average payout under the first bonus, estimated at £75 million, will be a measly £68. Anyone with a 25-year policy maturing this year should stand to receive £1,503, but this will merely compensate for less than sparkling past investment performance.

Meanwhile, Scottish Amicable's directors will have the chance of far greater rewards under a new employee share scheme, the terms of which are another piece of impenetrable prose. Provided that the new business fund, to be set up after demutualisation, increases in value by at least 15 per cent a year, the board could be in line for six-figure *or seven-figure share packages. How* great it is to be an Amicable man!

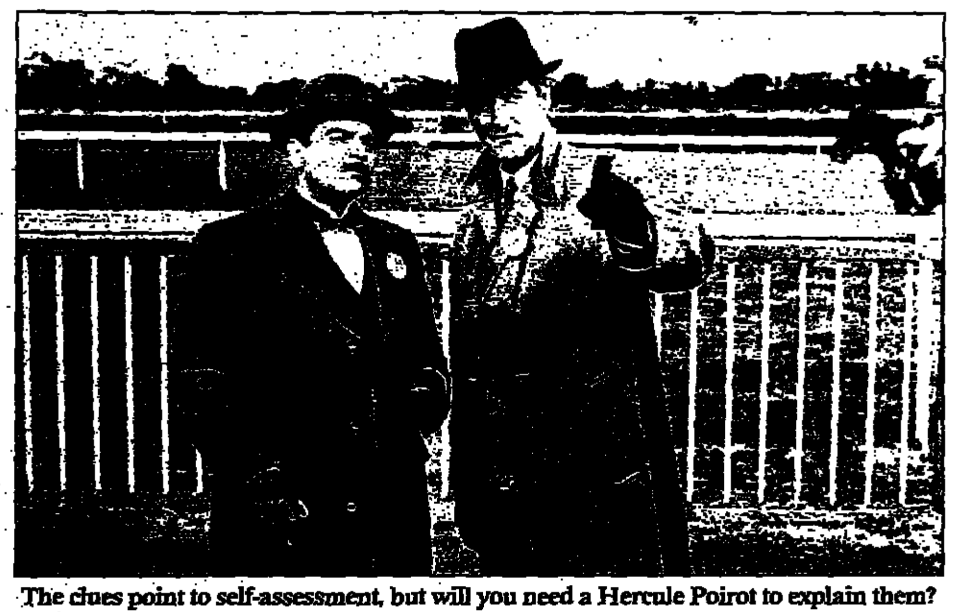
Asked why its policyholders would not be receiving shares, Scottish Amicable could give no satisfactory answer. In light of this, it will be interesting to hear its response if a predator emerges offering shares to policyholders. A bid is now an increasingly likely prospect and is the main reason why Scottish Amicable is seeking to change its status, despite its protestations to the contrary. Recently directors have been obsessed with fears of a hostile takeover.

The proposals will be put to the vote in March. Scottish Amicable is hoping that they will be carried without demur. They can take comfort that policyholders rarely rebel because they are never placed in full possession of the facts.

In this instance, policyholders should not blindly believe that the board is acting in their best interests. If shares are good enough for the *directors, why should those who own* the business be denied a slice of the action?

Sara McConnell on the merits of insuring against random checks by the Revenue

Watch out for that non-racing certainty



The clues point to self-assessment, but will you need a Hercule Poirot to explain them?

Taxpayers should not be panicked into buying *insurance that* could cover their accountant's fees in case they are picked at random for investigation by the Inland Revenue. According to the leading chartered accountants' body, they can statistically expect random investigations just once every 1,000 years.

The advent of self-assessment for nine million taxpayers who receive a tax return from this April gives the Inland Revenue new powers to investigate people's affairs at random without giving reasons for its actions. *Taxpayers* will have to produce their records to show that their affairs are *in order or else* face penalties. Those with accountants will face higher bills for *the extra work that* the accountant has to do to satisfy the Revenue.

Firms offering insurance against these higher fees are using the Revenue's new powers as a sales hook to persuade people to take out the cover. Brochures warn people that they will be at greater risk of investigation under the new regime. One leaflet, from Professional Fee Protection, begins: "Self-assessment — the *bare facts: Every business is* likely to be investigated ... The Revenue no longer needs *a reason* to investigate you ... Mistakes and delays can incur heavy penalties ... The Inland Revenue is all powerful and it also has limitless patience ... Investigations will include even those whose affairs *appear to be in order.*"

Most policies are sold to taxpayers by their accountants who bulk-buy the *insurance* and sell it on.

But Robert Maas, chairman of the technical committee of the tax faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, said: "People can expect to be randomly audited only once every 1,000 years statistically. The Inland Revenue has said it *only* intended to do 9,000 random audits a year out of nine million. These policies are *not necessarily a rip-off,* but the risks of an investigation are *not* that great."

Mr Maas, who is also a partner at Black*stone Franks,* the firm of chartered accountants, added that anyone taking out a policy needed to read the small print carefully, particularly the policy's definition of what constitutes an investigation.

He said: "The policy should cover any investigation by the Revenue except where there is *fraud* by the taxpayer. *It is* unlikely to cover the cost of simple queries but should *define at what stage these turn* into an investigation."

The cost of cover depends on how the policy is set up. Many accountants pay insurers for all their clients to be covered and then sell the cover on, as premiums of between about £30 and £60 for about £60,000 of cover. There is nothing to stop accountants charging clients automatically unless they object.

The sale of policies is not regulated in any way. Mr Maas said: "The client has to take the policy on trust from the accountant. *What will* happen if the insurer won't pay out is that the client will *turn on his accountant and* say: 'I'm not paying your fee'."

The Inland Revenue expressed *concern over the* claims made in some brochures. It said: "There are not *going to be significantly more* investigations under self-assessment. It is rubbish to say that every business is likely to be investigated. There will be a code of practice for investigations which will make it clearer what it going and give people *more certainty.*"

Random investigations would not start until 1998, the *Revenue* added.

Roy Murray, of Professional Fee Protection, said: "The Revenue would say that wouldn't they? Kenneth Clarke announced another 2,000 investigators in last November's Budget. Only someone who had their head in the sand would think there would be fewer investigations."

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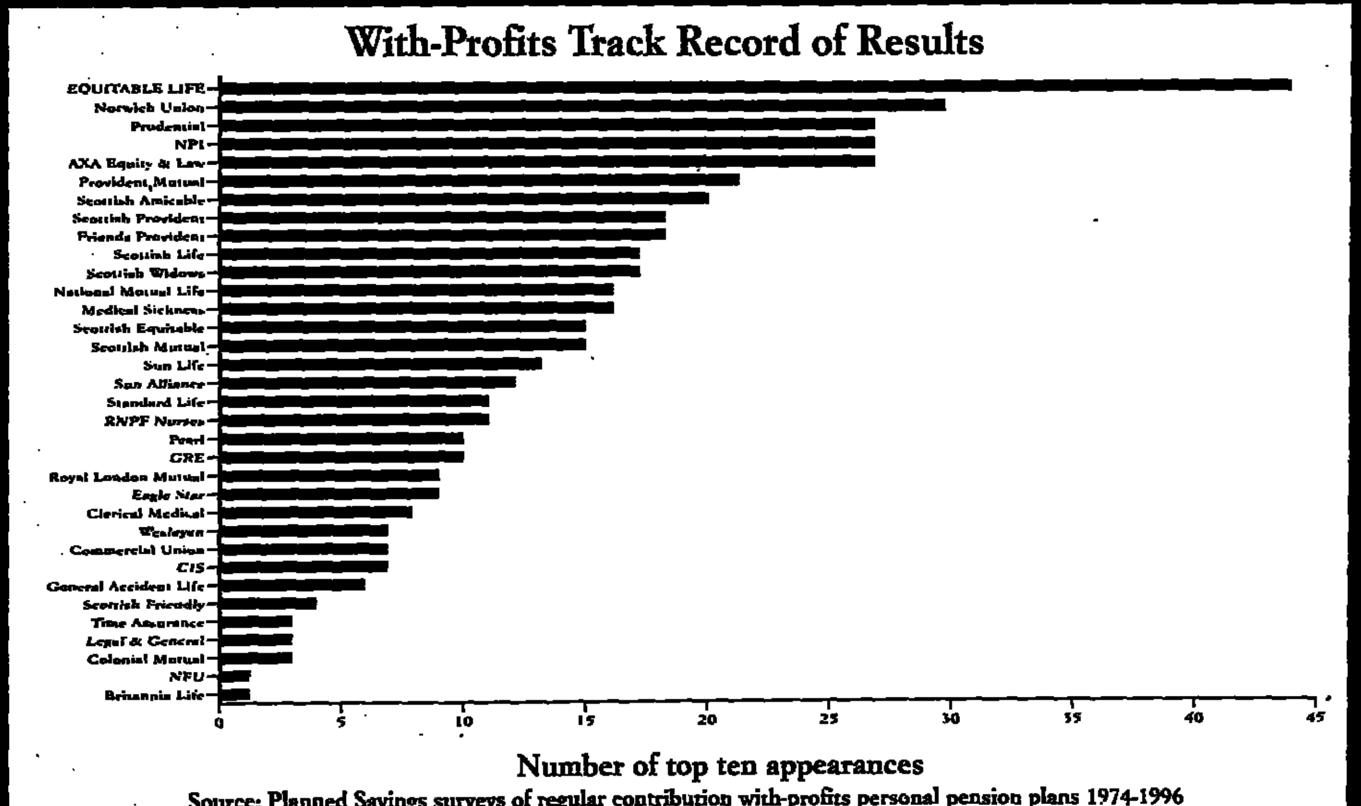

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans 1974-1996

Many people put good investment performance high on their list of priorities when choosing a pension plan. Making sense of competing claims can, however, be a difficult business.

Well, our simple table above should give them the facts they need to make an informed choice.

The table shows the number of times a company has appeared in the top ten investment performance results for regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans across all durations measured - according to annual surveys by the industry journal *Planned Savings*.

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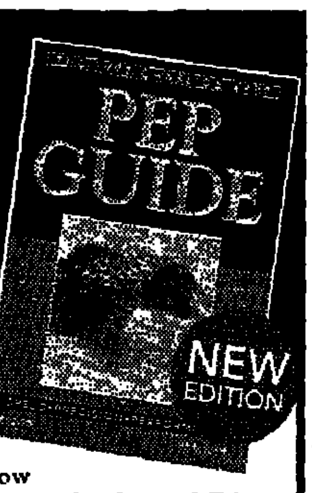

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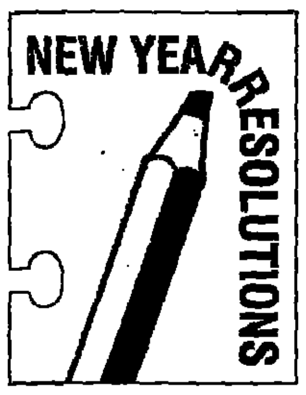
Check out those interest rates

Sara McConnell

on how to make the most of your savings in 1997 without giving too much to the taxman



Do you know how much you are earning on your savings accounts? If you have not checked for some time, you are in for a shock. Rates on instant access savings accounts fell by 75 per cent on average between their peak in 1990 and their low in mid 1996, according to the Halifax Building Society.

Variable-rate Tessas fell by 60 per cent from their peak, while 90-day-notice accounts saw a fall of 70 per cent. National Savings gross rates have more than halved since 1990.

Rising base rates have started to translate into higher savings rates this year, but millions of savers in instant access accounts are earning less than the current rate of inflation of 2.5 per cent.

According to a survey this week commissioned by the Nationwide Building Society, 82 per cent of savers questioned did not know how much they were earning on their savings. More than a third never check their rates and just over a quarter check them only once a year. In spite of this, nearly three quarters said rates were important.

But rates are only half the story. An estimated six million non-taxpayers are eligible to claim £500 million back in tax because they have not registered for their tax to be paid gross and are still paying tax at 20 per cent on their interest. At the other end of the scale, higher rate taxpayers are failing to take advantage of tax-free savings accounts such as Tessas and so are paying 40 per cent on interest on savings accounts. Married couples are still not transferring savings into the name of a lower rate or non-taxpaying spouse to take advantage of independent taxation and save tax.

BBC

Could Bill and Ben Porter of *2point4 Children* benefit by transferring accounts?

Millions of savers from societies preparing to convert to banks have been more or less locked into savings accounts for fear of losing out on generous bonuses. This should change as four societies — the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Woolwich — convert in the summer and autumn and the Bristol & West is sold to the Bank of Ireland in the summer. Some of the following moves could be useful for restoring your savings to health:

■ **Check out postal accounts.** If you want instant access to your money, these pay some of the best rates. Access to your money is as instant as the postal service can make it. Postal accounts dominate the latest instant access best buy list by *MoneyFacts* for *The Times*. All rates are gross and annual. Northern Rock is paying 6.25 per cent on the minimum balance of £5,000 in its new Select Instant postal account, launched this week. Sun Banking Corporation is paying 5.75 per cent on balances of £5,000. The Coventry Building Society's new First Instant postal account pays 5.1 per cent gross on a minimum balance of £2,000.

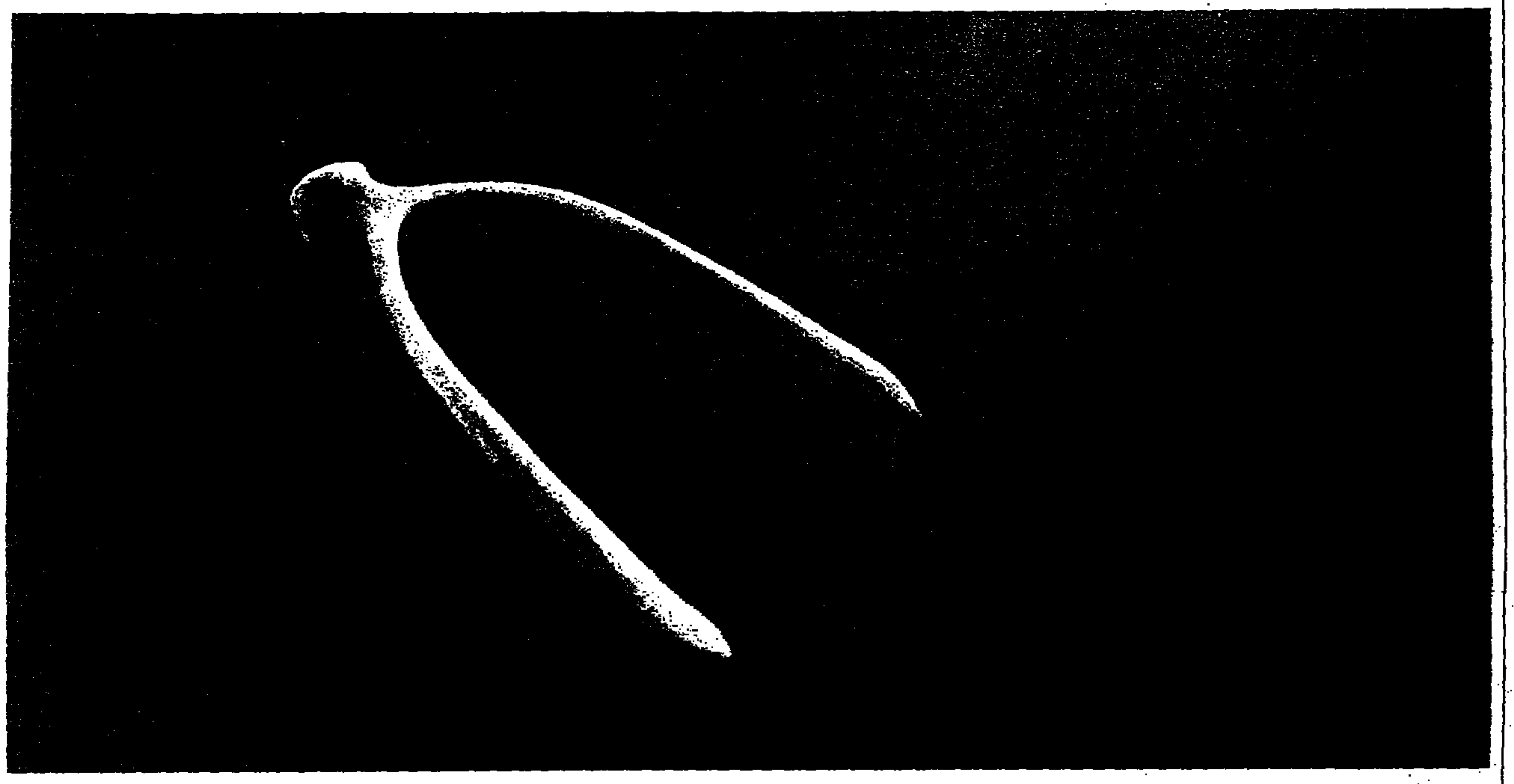
■ **Consider starting a Tessa.** Tessa (tax-exempt special savings account) rates have halved since the first accounts were launched in 1991. But they are still a good buy. A variable-rate account could be a better bet than a fixed rate as interest rates start to rise. If you have £3,000 in an instant access, notice account or bank deposit account that you can afford to lock up for five years, use it to open a Tessa. If you have not had an account before you can put in a maximum of £3,000 in the first year, and £1,800 in each of the succeeding four years as long as you do not exceed the £9,000 total. The best first-generation Tessas are paying 7 per cent or more tax-free. Best buys include the NatWest Bank and the Birmingham Midshires Building Society. You can take your interest out of your Tessa without penalty as long as you do not withdraw capital.

■ **Think twice about fixed rates.** Fixed-rate Tessas and bonds may have tempting rates now, but these may look mean in five or even one year's time if the trend towards rising interest rates continues. Some accounts have draconian penalties for withdrawal.

■ **Don't pay too much tax.** Building society and bank interest (except Tessa interest) is taxed at source at 20 per cent for lower and basic rate taxpayers and 40 per cent for higher rate taxpayers. If you are a non-taxpayer, ask for form R85 from your branch or tax office so that you can receive interest gross. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, but your spouse is not, transfer some of your savings into his or her name so they are taxed accordingly. The transfer is permanent.

THE SAVER'S FRIEND

THE Nationwide Building Society has launched a campaign to persuade savers that they will get a better deal at the society than with its rivals. Since last summer Nationwide has promoted itself as aggressively pro mutual, claiming to offer higher rates to savers and lower rates to borrowers because it had opted to use some of its profits for the direct benefit of its members. Savers from other banks and building societies will be able to go into a Nationwide branch or call a freephone number (0500 302010) and compare their existing rate with Nationwide's rates. The society says its rates are on average three quarters of a percentage point higher than those of its main competitors. It says that a married couple with £9,000 each in a second generation Tessa, a daughter aged 12 with £2,000 in a youth account and a grandmother with £10,000 in an instant access account, would be £1,416 better off in the Nationwide than in Barclays, £1,191 better off than in the Halifax, £1,140 better off than in the Woolwich and £1,111 better off than in the Abbey. But none of these, including the Nationwide, appears in the *MoneyFacts* best buy tables for any of the chosen accounts.



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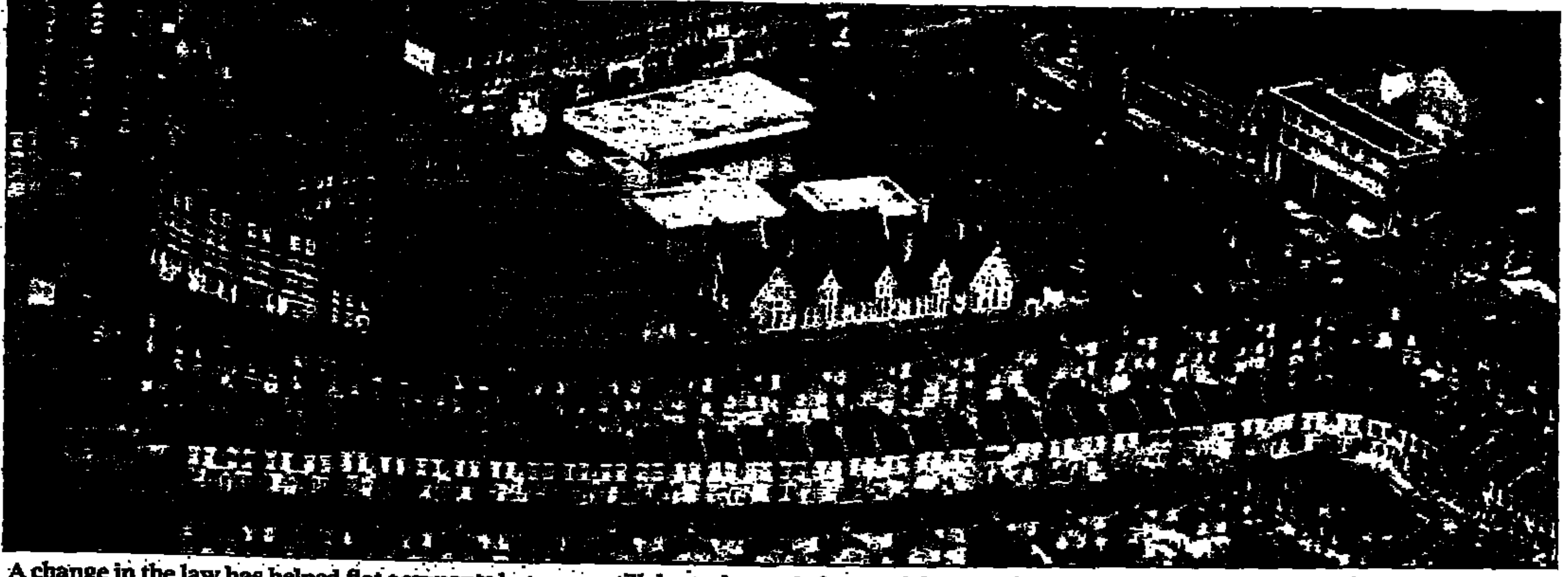

A change in the law has helped flat occupants but many still do not know their new rights and their protection against eviction threats by landlords

Leaseholders under pressure

Landlords are continuing to threaten flat-owners with eviction despite stronger rules, says **Sara McConnell**

Occupants of leasehold flats disputing large service charge bills are continuing to be threatened with the loss of their homes by landlords in spite of new rules giving leaseholders strengthened rights to resist such intimidation.

Leas, formerly the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service, reports continuing complaints from leaseholders that landlords are attempting to force them to pay by serving them with eviction notices, believing that many leaseholders will be unaware of their new rights.

But since October last year leaseholders have been safe from eviction unless and until the landlord can prove to a court that the charges are reasonable. Only if flat-owners still refuse to pay can they face eviction.

The Government was forced to bring in changes after reports in *The Times* that landlords were using eviction notices as a first resort in service charge disputes. This was part of a wider, disturbing pattern of intimidation of leaseholders by powerful landlords.

Peter Haler, chief executive of Leas, said: "Landlords are still daring tenants to take them to court. The problem is that tenants don't know their new rights." Since the beginning of this year, Leas has expanded its role and will now offer free advice on service charge disputes in addition to advising on buying freeholds and extending leases.

So what are your rights if you are having trouble with your landlord? Over the next three months, the remaining planks of a new raft of rights for leaseholders will be put in place after the implementation of the Housing Act 1996. Important new rights are already in place. These include:

■ **The right to demand a court's confirmation that service charges are reasonable.** If you receive a service charge demand you consider to be unreasonable, do not be panicked into paying up. As soon as you do, you implicitly accept the charge. The experts' advice is to wait. Before you pay anything the landlord has to take his case to court and ask it to rule that his demand is reasonable. Ignore attempts to panic you by serving you with an eviction notice (the so-called section 146 notice). If you receive one, read it carefully. It should spell out your right to have the charges examined by a court. But there are several problems with this right. The first is defining what is "reasonable". It is unreasonable of you to believe you should have to pay nothing for insurance, repairs and maintenance. Equally it is almost certainly unreasonable to be faced with major works costing tens of thousands of pounds possibly to make good earlier shoddy work. The second problem is that the Government's proposed network of leasehold valuation tribunals (LVTs) will not be up and running until after April. LVTs are intended to offer a cheaper and easier route for leaseholders fighting service charge disputes. But until April, disputes will have to be handled by the county courts. Leaseholders could face open-ended bills for the landlord's costs if they lose as county courts have the power to award costs unlike LVTs. You could also find that your landlord asks your building society to pay the charge and add it to your outstanding debt. Societies are still paying up in spite of pressure from the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

■ **Strengthened rights to buy the freehold of your block.** It is now a criminal offence for your landlord not to offer you as leaseholders first refusal to buy the freehold of your block if he wants to sell. He faces a fine of up to £5,000 if he disobeys the law. The right of first refusal has been in place since 1987 but landlords flouted it with impunity because there were no sanctions for ignoring it. If you find your freehold has been sold without your knowledge, you can still fight back. You now have four months from when you find out you have a new landlord to serve a notice on him. He has to tell you how much he paid for the freehold and explain your right to buy it to you. You then have six months, rather than three as previously, to buy. But these new rights rely on you knowing you have them. There is no onus on a new landlord to explain your rights unless you serve a notice.

■ **Access to leasehold valuation tribunals.** The existing network of tribunals is set to be expanded from April and will handle service charge disputes for the first time. The move is intended to overcome leaseholders' often-justified fears of expensive court action which prevented many from challenging their landlords. LVTs will charge a set fee and will not have the power to award costs. A maximum fee of £500 is laid down in the Act. But the Government has still not decided how to structure the fee. It is considering charging £150 for an application and a sliding scale of pre-hearing fees up to a total of £500 based either on the number of flats in a block or the number of flat-owners. It has rejected the idea of charging according to the amount in dispute, which would have weighed disproportionately on those already facing the highest service charge bills.

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Small is beautiful for fund managers in times of political uncertainty, **Matthew Wall** reports

Election casts shadow over shares

SECTOR IN FOCUS 97

Forecasting in the run-up to a general election is a dangerous business. Consensus among fund managers and professional pundits tends to fly out of the window, leaving investors in *the dark about which way to* jump.

In the gloom and doom corner, Oxford Economic Forecasting, for example, says that sterling's strength threatens to damage economic recovery in 1997 as exports become relatively expensive and therefore less competitive. Growth in export volumes of goods was a healthy 8.4 per cent last year, but Oxford *Economic Forecasting* believes that strong sterling will put a lid on further growth.

Similarly, Roger Bootle, chief economist of HSBC and an economic adviser to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is fearful for 1997's prospects *if expected interest rate* rises are pushed through. The rises, intended to prevent inflationary *consumer spending* running out of control, will help to bolster sterling, he argues, further weakening British industry's competitiveness abroad.

However, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is *more optimistic*, forecasting consumer spending growth of more than 4 per cent this year, reflecting tax cuts and an increase in confidence now that house prices are on the up again. Gross domestic product growth is forecast at a more modest 3.1 per cent. The CBI believes that interest rates are unlikely to rise beyond 7 per cent this year because the economy is growing steadily, not booming.

Food companies, such as Asda, of which Archie Norman is chairman, are widely regarded as safe bolt-holes

The fund management industry is broadly optimistic, too, no matter which party wins the election. Roger Cornick, deputy chairman of Perpetual, the *fund manager* with £7 billion under management, says: "The continuation of a low-growth, low-inflation, low-interest rate environment is ideal for equity investment."

Douglas Godden, head of the CBI's economic policy group, *points out that* both parties have similar macroeconomic policies anyway, given *that they are both committed*, in theory, to economic convergence with fellow European economies.

The City is assuming a Labour victory and many commentators believe this eventuality is already priced into the *market. But investors should* still steel themselves for a last-minute election panic as a notoriously *skittish* City throws rational thinking to the wind.

A Labour government may use tax policy to *shift* corporate activity away from dividend distribution towards investment. This *may affect investors' income* in the short term, but some commentators believe that *long-term growth prospects* would improve as a result.

Bill Mott, head of UK Equities for Credit Suisse Asset Management, thinks a Labour government's emphasis on reinvestment and training would benefit companies that grow *organically* on the *strength* of the products they develop.

For this reason, he likes *biotechnology companies*, such as British Biotech and Celltech, over the long term. Notoriously volatile and profit-shy in the short term, they still offer excellent growth prospects. Using the same reasoning, he also likes pharmaceuticals, computer software, telecoms and technology-driven engineering companies.

He says: "I like companies which produce things that people need, *rather than* things which people want."

He believes that the rationalisation, *cost-cutting* and drive for improved efficiency that has characterised much of the Conservative period in office, must give way to a sustained period of increased investment in research and development. "The UK economy is crying out for a good dose of long-termism," he says.

There are some general *trends likely to emerge in spite* of the electoral uncertainty. Small to medium-sized companies traditionally outperform their bigger counterparts during economic recoveries. The latest NatWest Quarterly Survey shows small businesses reporting the best economic conditions for six years, with interest rates remaining manageable *and sales picking up.*

Lewis McNaught, director of the UK retail division of Gartmore, *the fund manager* owned by NatWest bank, says: "We love smaller companies at the moment, especially those which derive most of their earnings from the UK market rather than overseas. Service industries, such as Michael Page, *the recruitment consultant*, should continue to do well in 1997."

Vivian Bazalgette, managing director of M&G Investment Management, is also a smaller companies fan. He says: "The *small* to medium-sized companies are likely to outpace the FT-SE 100 this year for the first time since 1994. We are expecting 8 per cent dividend growth for the whole market in 1997, but 11 to 12 per cent for medium companies and 15 to 17 per cent for *small* companies."

Among big companies, the utilities still look good value, he believes, in spite of the threat of the windfall tax if Labour wins power. And diversified *industrials*, such as BTR, also look good value after a difficult period of adjustment in a low-growth environment.

However, Mr Bazalgette's favourite sector is *manufacturing*, which should enjoy sustained growth on the back of the consumer recovery, provided sterling's strength does not lead to a flood of cheap imports. Paper, packaging and printing businesses in particular are overdue good times, with Rexam a favoured stock.

Over the long term, with both political parties acknowledging that an ageing population will *put* more and more strain on the State, companies *positioned* to benefit from increased self-provision, whether in *healthcare* or pensions, should do well. Fund management groups and life insurance companies should therefore have a part to play in investors' portfolios.

Food companies are widely regarded as safe bolt-holes in times of political *uncertainty*. This fact alone should help to push up the price of their *shares*. Asda, of which Archie Norman is chairman, is a popular stock in the sector.

John Shelley, head of UK market leaders at Abtrust, the fund manager, expects 1997 to see an influx of foreign investment in the UK market, particularly from the US. *The* fact that Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, recently increased its *investment* weighting in European markets to 44 per cent seems to bear out his prediction.

He agrees with Mr Bazalgette that medium-sized companies, with market capitalisations of between £300 million and £2 billion, should outperform the big boys.

Abtrust favours "quality" retailers, such *as Dixons*, Next, and DFS Furniture, and "pure" leisure stocks, such as *London Clubs*, the casino operator, and Manchester United, the football club, in spite *of its recent share price dip.*

Burford, the commercial property developer, and other property-related stocks should do well, Mr Shelley believes, on the back of the recovery.

Whether the surge in house prices will have a knock-on *effect on the house-building* and building-materials companies is uncertain, with some analysts dismissing growth prospects as very short term.

The wide range of opinions cited above may tempt investors to sit tight and think towards the long term. Trying to call the market over the coming months could be riskier than playing Russian roulette. Sometimes doing nothing can be the best tactic of all.

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Bonuses and performance of markets don't add up

Gavin Lumsden on the reason for poor payouts from life companies

Millions of with-profit policyholders are once again left wondering what the stock markets have to do for life companies to pay out decent bonuses on their with-profit endowment policies.

1996 was not a bad year for equities, property or bonds, three sectors in which all with-profit funds invest. Broadly speaking most with-profit funds achieved a total pre-tax return of 11 per cent from their investments. And yet the four companies which have declared so far — Commercial Union, Friends Provident, General Accident and Norwich Union — are all paying top up bonuses well short of this. Sources within the industry blame the poor payouts on the prudence of actuaries who are attempting to claw back the excessive bonuses of the 1980s.

Norwich Union disappointed its 2.1 million with-profit policyholders by keeping its bonuses for unitised contracts at 6.5 per cent for savings and 7.5 per cent for pensions. Its rates for conventional policies stayed at a miserly 2.5 per cent for the sum assured and 4.5 per cent for attaching bonuses.

Commercial Union and Friends Provident paid slightly better. Ironically, General Accident, which shaved between 0.25 per cent and 0.5 per cent off last year's bonuses, remains the biggest payer. Unitised savings contracts got 7.25 per cent and unitised pensions received 8.5 per cent. But GA admits that it is paying 5 to 10 per cent more than the underlying performance of its investments would dictate.

Richard Harvey, Norwich Union's finance director, dismisses as "completely ludicrous" speculation that the company is fattening itself up ahead of flotation this year at the expense of with-profit holders. "No corporate arrangement would be recommended by our independent actuary or approved by the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) if it had any damaging effect on our with-profit holders," he says.

Mr Harvey denies the company is out of line with its competitors: "We are paying nearly £900 million in maturities. We are very careful to pay a fair amount in accordance with how the investments have done. The payout on our ten-year policies is almost identical with Friends Provident, within a few pounds."

Members of mutual insurer Scottish Amicable will doubtless be watching hawk-eyed how it sets its rates after its link-up this week with Swiss Re. It plans to demutualise this year and float in three to five years. However, it has promised to pay with-profit holders a special bonus of around £75 million this year, followed by further benefits worth another £200 million when it lists on the Stock Exchange (see page 39).

Holders of with-profit policies have every right to scrutinise the annual bonuses because, once announced, they become part of the guaranteed sum they will get at the end of the contract.

Bitter experience of falling rates this decade has taught many holders to be extra vigilant. Although the stock market has grown most years during the 1990s, low inflation and declining interest rates have contributed to a low-growth environment which has halved the total return from investments compared to the boom time of the 1980s. Bonus rates have fallen from more than 10 per cent at the beginning of the decade, forcing endowment holders to increase their premiums if they want to pay off mortgages, or accept lower returns on their investment bonds.

Yet with yields from with-profit funds levelling at around 7.5 per cent life companies say cautious investors are piling back into with-profits bonds in their anxiety to smooth what could be a rocky couple of years for stock markets.

However, the controversy of falling rates refuses to go away for those investors who were sold high-income-yielding with-profit products in the early 1990s.

WITH-PROFITS policies pay a guaranteed sum at the end of their term. This is also known as the sum insured and is augmented by two different kinds of bonuses.

As their name suggests, annual (or reversionary) bonuses are announced every year. They are expressed as two percentages — one applying to the sum insured and the other to the bonuses already added in previous years.

When the policy matures you are paid another bonus — the additional or terminal bonus. Basically, the life company adds up what it has promised you in the guaranteed benefit and annual bonuses and compares this with what the policy has actually earned. Any difference is the additional bonus. It too is expressed as a percentage. Life companies constantly balance what they pay in annual and additional bonuses in an attempt to smooth out market volatility. The idea is that in good years you will get less than the total investment return from the stock market, but in bad you will get more.

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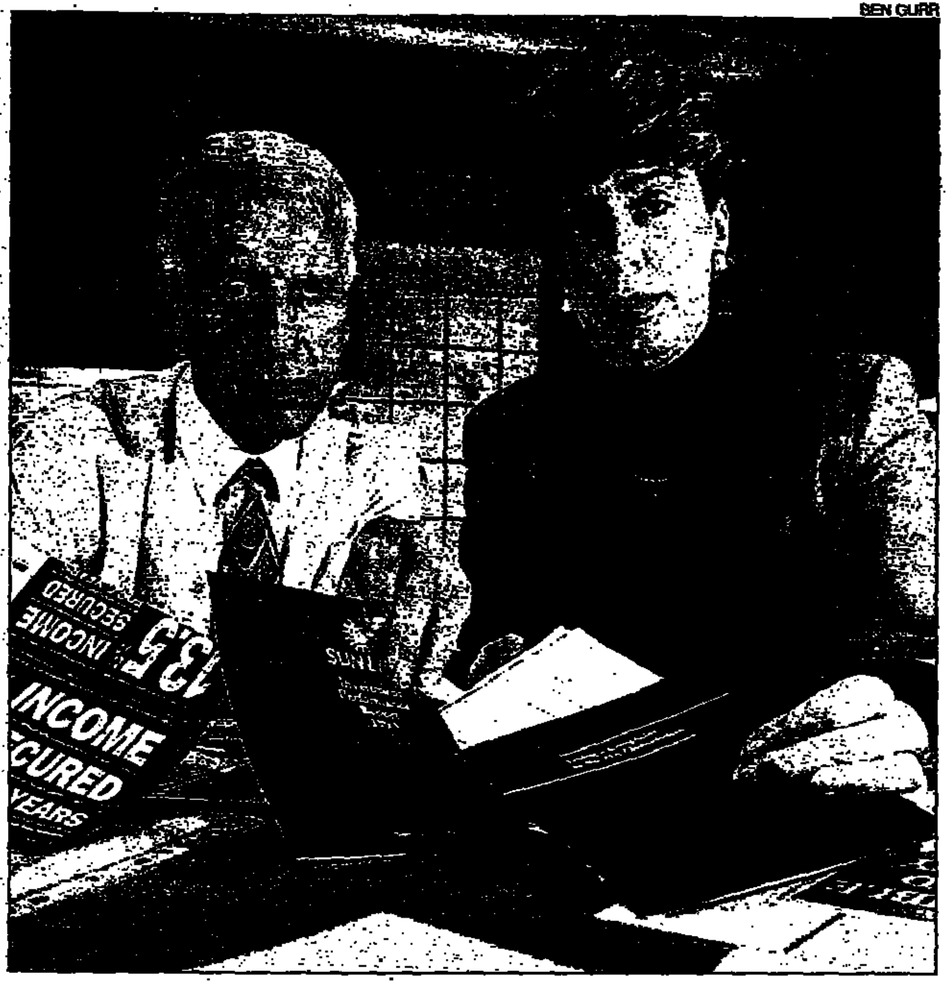

Peter and Elizabeth Parsons. He claims he was misled and lost nearly £12,000

Security fails on the capital front

Peter Parsons, a retired newsagent from Burghfield Common in Berkshire, has lost nearly £12,000 of the £60,000 he put into Sun Life's 50 Plus Secure Income Plan after the with-profits part of the product completely failed to protect his capital.

The plan was split 43.3 per cent into an annuity, designed to pay a guaranteed annual gross income of 13.5 per cent, and 56.6 per cent into Sun Life's with-profits bond which was supposed to grow to pay Mr Parsons back his £60,000 at the end of five years.

Unfortunately, Mr Parsons took out the plan in December 1991, just as Sun Life, along with the rest of the life industry, began to cut its bonus rates from their high of 9.5 per cent. The following May Sun Life withdrew the product as interest and annuity rates plummeted in the wake of the UK's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism.

Although Sun Life paid Mr Parsons 50 monthly payments of £487 as it promised, the company shocked him last year when it told him the with-profits bond had accrued only £48,189.90, £11,810.30 less than he was expecting.

Mr Parsons says Sun Life misled him because in an advertisement it described the plan as "the safe way to protect your income from falling interest rates". Mr Parsons assumed the security applied to his capital not just the income.

He also accuses R J Temple of Brighton, his financial adviser, of mis-selling. After meeting Mr Parsons, one of its representatives advised him in writing to buy the plan because it was tax-efficient and offered comparable security to a building society account. R J Temple, which was paid nearly £2,500 for the sale, denies Mr Parsons was mis-sold the policy.

Sun Life refuses to compensate Mr Parsons, saying it would be unfair to other with-profit holders. In total 18,000 investors lost between 15 and 20 per cent of their capital through the plan — compensating them all would probably put it out of business.

The company claims it was always clear that capital was never guaranteed. In addition, it says, it warned him every year that bonus rates were declining. It still believes Mr Parsons got a better deal than if he had put the money in a building society.

All this enrages Mr Parsons: "I'm retired and I'm looking after my money. I'm not a clever sort of person, but I do know my figures and my percentages. When I got my first set of accounts in 1992 I saw that it was never going to make it in five years. I rang up to inquire but never got an answer. Then you think it will improve and make it up later.

"If you get legitimately turned over you'd say fair enough — but when the market over the five years was very good it really makes you angry. Then they say I've done better than if I'd been in a building society. But I know I could have made £84,250 from deposit accounts, £6,000 more than I got in total from Sun Life — and I could have taken my money out."

Mr Parsons has now complained to the Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman.

Midland switches to fee-free account

Midland Bank is to switch 4.5 million of its customers who hold an Orchard, Vector or Midland current account to a new account — the Midland Bank Account.

The new current account bucks the recent trend of moving towards fee-based banking. It offers an arranged overdraft, which does not carry a fee. The interest on the overdraft is 13.3 per cent.

The other high street banks offer higher rates of interest on their accounts. For instance, Barclays customers will have to pay an annual interest of 18.8 per cent on an authorised overdraft plus a £5 per month fee. NatWest customers, meanwhile, will have to pay interest of 18.9 per cent plus £9 per month.

Other facilities on the new account include a £50 buffer zone for customers who accidentally slip into the red. Customers will not be charged an unauthorised borrowing fee of 24.6 per cent.

Customers who stay in credit will benefit from interest on their balance of 0.25 per cent. This compares with interest of between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent offered by other banks. This means that more than one million people will receive interest on their current accounts for the first time.

Midland claims that anyone with an authorised £250 overdraft with the bank for one week each month for a year will pay £7.25. This compares to £70 at Barclays, £106 at LLoyds and £118 at NatWest.

Last year Barclays launched its Additions bank account, which will charge customers a fee. At the time it was seen as the first step towards the end of free banking for those in credit.

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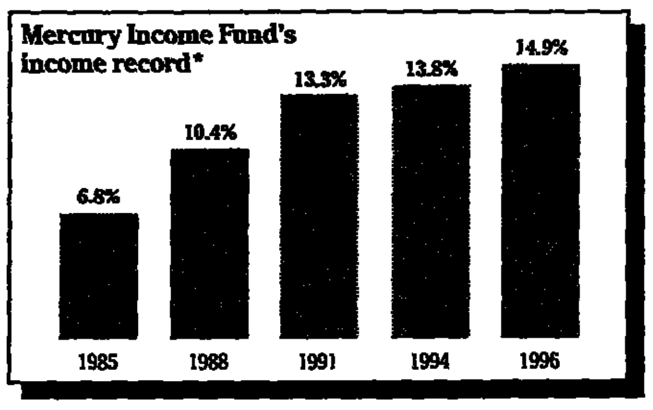

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TE 069

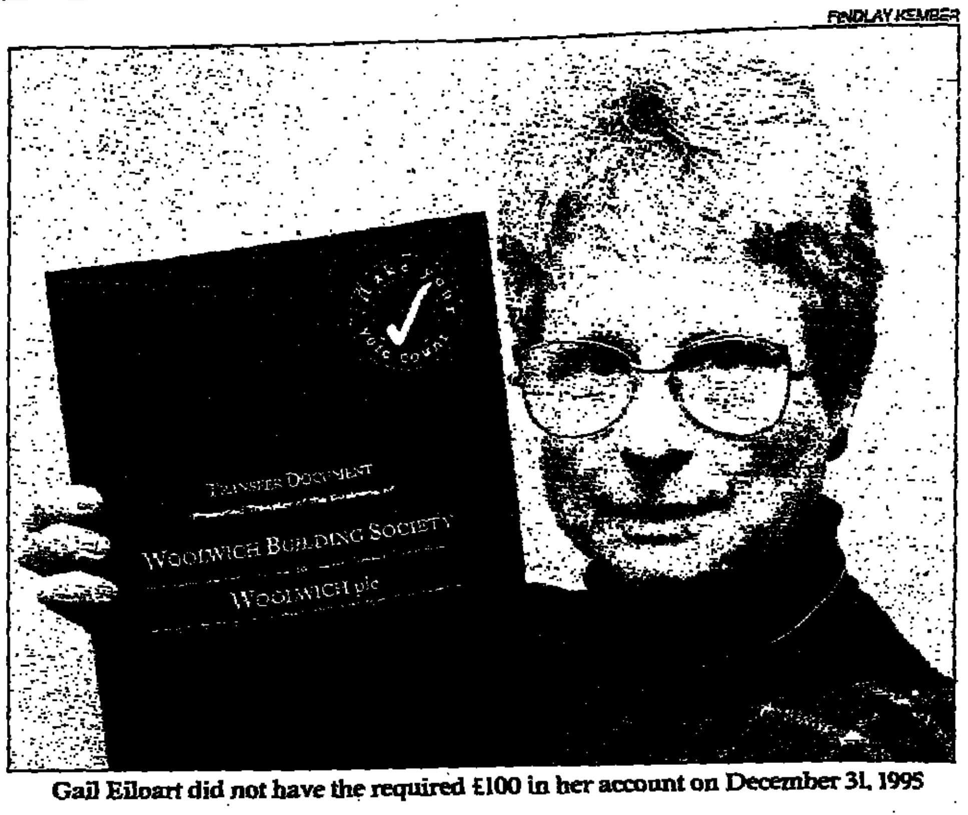
Sara McConnell and **Caroline Merrell** on the floats of the Halifax and Woolwich building societies

Savers who were included out

BRIAN HATTON

Nigel Pitt received the Woolwich pack and was then told he was not entitled to vote

FINDLAY KEMBER



Gail Eiloart did not have the required £100 in her account on December 31, 1995

The confirmation of the Halifax and Woolwich share payouts has not brought universal rejoicing. After the announcement of the details, Weekend Money has been contacted by Woolwich savers who believed that they would qualify for free shares and have now been informed that they will be excluded.

The Woolwich has admitted that some savers have received letters telling them they are not eligible for the basic payout of 450 shares, worth £844, when in fact they are eligible.

In its defence, the society said it had to send out papers before the end of last year so that they would be returned in time for its special meeting next month. As a result, some of the 55,000 people who changed their accounts in some way in the final weeks of last year may have been given the wrong information.

For example, many topped up their accounts to £100 to qualify for the bonus. Also possibly excluded in the original mailing were 12,000 savers who replenished their accounts at the last moment and whose cheques have just cleared.

Others who may have the wrong information about their shares are people who recently moved house and have their previous address on one account and a new address on another, and those who have two accounts with slightly different names.

In spite of an extensive deduplication exercise by the Woolwich, some members have slipped through the net. Nigel Pitt, a reader of *The Times* from London, is one of these.

Mr Pitt got his voting pack last month. He was, therefore, perplexed to receive a letter a week later saying that he was not entitled to vote — especially as he has been with the Woolwich for 44 years and

SOCIETY WATCH

meets all the qualifying criteria.

He said: "I called the society to be told that many people had been sent the wrong letter. But my name was not on that list. On investigation, it was found that another account in my name holding a nominal balance had not been matched by the computer. The reason being that one account showed my first name and initials, the other only my initial. All other details were identical."

It has also emerged that some of those who are both savers and borrowers with the Halifax, and thus stand to receive two sets of free shares, fear that they have not been included on the list of qualifying borrowers.

There is also the continuing distress of those who were long-term savers with both societies, but who failed to have the correct amount invested on the first qualifying date and are thus not entitled to vote or receive shares.

Gail Eiloart, a reader from Hertfordshire who has held a Woolwich Prime Gold account since 1989, did not have the required £100 in her account on December 31, 1995, and is excluded, although her balance was above this amount before this date and subsequently.

The Woolwich Action Campaign, led by Paul Boddam-Whetham, a Woolwich investor, is fighting for the rights of these savers.

Letters, page 41

Do I qualify for a payout?

I have my mortgage with the Halifax and also a savings account containing £5,000 which means that I should qualify for two sets of shares, a basic distribution, plus an additional variable distribution. To date, the society has confirmed my entitlement to the variable distribution but has said nothing about my entitlement as a borrower.

You should have received a letter from the Halifax in November 1996, setting out your savings account balance and confirming that you are a borrowing member. Borrowers receive only the basic distribution. In your voting pack, which you should receive by January 21, there should be a form asking you to vote on the conversion, both as an investing and borrowing member. If you have not received this form, ring 0800 527327.

Is it possible to be able to vote on the Woolwich conversion but not get shares?

David Lazard, a London reader, was puzzled to find that even though he did not have the requisite amount in his account at the end of 1995, he is entitled to vote on the proposed conversion. Initially he was told that he would qualify for the cash bonus, which would be a percentage of the balance, because he had less than £100 in his account at the end of 1995. He was not entitled to any shares. However, during last year, he topped up his account to more than £1,000. The fact that he had more than £100 in the account at the end of last year, means that he is entitled to vote, which disqualifies him from the cash bonus as well. He said: "I cannot believe it. I have been with the society for years, and just because I withdrew money for a few days over the Christmas period, I am entitled to nothing."

Halifax members who did not have £100 invested at the first qualifying date of November 25, 1994, but whose balances were above this level at December 31, 1996, will also have the right to vote in the conversion poll, but will not receive the statutory cash bonus or the shares.

Why do savers under 18 not benefit from the share distributions?

Jean Woolley from Carshalton writes: "As a parent, I have always encouraged my children to save, but how do you explain this so-called windfall, when I will be receiving approximately £900 and they will receive 9.4 per cent of their balances?".

Under the terms of the Halifax conversion, those under 18 will be eligible for only the statutory cash bonus, which is also given to those savers with less than £100 invested at November 25, 1994.

Children are entitled to receive 9.4 per cent of their balance at December 31, 1996. The rules permitted them to increase their cash bonus after the first qualifying date of November 25, 1994, by allowing them to add a maximum of £1,000 to their accounts.

Children will be eligible only for the cash bonus because they are not entitled to vote. Other societies have been slightly more generous. The Alliance & Leicester will be giving bonuses of 11 per cent of balances to those under 18. The Woolwich will give 10 per cent. Both have followed the example of the Halifax in allowing accounts to be topped up by a maximum of £1,000 by October 14, 1996, in the case of the Alliance & Leicester, and by December 31, 1996, at the Woolwich.

I have a number of accounts with the Woolwich and will qualify for the variable distribution as a saver of more than two years' standing with more than £1,000 in my accounts. But the balance of some of my accounts have dropped since December 31, 1995. Should I top up these accounts by February 11, 1997?

The important thing is that the total balance of all your accounts must be at least as much on February 11 as it was on December 31 for you to get the maximum payout to which you are entitled.

The staff at my local branch of the Woolwich told me that I had to have had £100 in my account for the 12 months before December 31, 1995, as well as on December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996, to qualify for the basic payout. Is this correct?

No. The two qualifying dates for the basic payout are December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996. On each of these dates you must have had at least £100 in your account to qualify for the basic payout of 450 shares. You were allowed to let the level of your balance drop between these two dates as long as you topped it up. You did not need to have an account at all before December 31, 1995.

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Assets trap primed for personal pensioners

Anne Ashworth on a ruling showing that not every bankrupt is equal when it comes to pension benefits

Bankruptcy should reduce everyone to the same ignominious level. However, a recent High Court ruling has shown that not all bankrupts are equal. Those with personal pension plans may not be able to start afresh once discharged from bankruptcy since they may be permanently deprived of their pensions. Those former bankrupts who are members of company schemes will not suffer this fate as their pension should be safeguarded.

The outcome of the case involving Ivan Landau, a former solicitor, could have implications for those attempting to recover pension assets from bankrupts. Roger Levitt, the disgraced founder of the Levitt investment group and a discharged bankrupt, can expect to receive £100,000 a year from his £1 million pension plans.

Ian Greenstreet, a pensions lawyer at Simmons & Simmons, the City legal firm, explained: "The Landau case, which was heard late last year, cleared away the confusion that had previously existed as to whether a trustee in bankruptcy can lay his hands on cash in pension funds to settle a bankrupt's debts."

He continued: "The court ruled that rights to personal pension plan benefits passed into the control of the trustee and remained under his control after the bankrupt is discharged, generally within three years."

As a result, Mr Greenstreet said, when the pension came to be paid, the lump sum plus the pension payments could be used by the trustee to settle any unpaid debts. He went on: "Take, for instance, an electrician who is made bankrupt at 40. If he's discharged three years later without having cleared his debts, the trustee in bankruptcy can keep his personal pension and use it to pay off more of the bankrupt's debts when the pension comes into payment, even if that's ten or twenty years later."

Members of occupational pension schemes are largely protected from such dangers. The new Pensions Act, which comes into force in April, specifically excludes occupational pensions from passing to the trustee in bankruptcy, although the trustee may be able to obtain a court order claiming any pension payments made before the bankrupt is discharged. There are currently no equivalent provisions for personal pension holders.

Mr Greenstreet pointed out the illogicality of the difference in treatment between those in company schemes and those in personal pensions. He commented: "While it is arguable that pension benefits should be treated just like any other asset and be available to repay the bankrupt's debts, it does seem unfair and inconsistent that personal pension holders are treated differently from those in occupational schemes. There are many people who will not have had any choice over their pension provision, such as the self-employed. Undoubtedly many of them will be shocked when they realise this."

Roger Levitt, a discharged bankrupt, who can expect to receive £100,000 a year from his £1 million pension plans

ScotAm's two steps to flotation

More than one million policyholders with Scottish Amicable will receive bonuses worth up to £3,000 after the mutual's announcement of plans to demutualise and float within three to five years.

In the first step of a two-stage restructuring plan, ScotAm will shed its mutual status on May 1, after a special general meeting scheduled for March. It will pay its membership an initial special bonus of £75 million, followed by further benefits at flotation worth at least £200 million.

New with-profit policies taken out after December 31, 1996, and before the date of a special general meeting in March will qualify, but only for the bonuses at flotation, and not at demutualisation. The demutualisation payout will be in the form of a bonus paid into the policy, not cash. The flotation payout has not been decided yet, but could be in the form of a policy bonus or shares.

A policy taken out, for example, in 1972 on a sum assured of £30,000 could qualify for more than £1,500. However, newer policyholders will receive a bonus as little as £75, and all may question why the society has no plans to give them free shares when it eventually floats.

ScotAm is currently the sixth-largest mutual life assurance company in the UK and sells life, protection, pensions, savings and investment products, primarily through independent financial advisers.

The insurer gave warning that "bounty hunters" (people intending to buy policies just to qualify for the special bonus) are not welcome. However, those people who buy a new policy between now and March would reap the benefit of any second-stage payout and anyone buying a second-hand policy, known as a traded endowment policy, will qualify for both bonuses.

Unlike with building society demutualisations, ScotAm members will not be able to gain access to their bonus until their policy matures. For some, this date will be more than 20 years away, even though their bonus will be credited in May. Holders of non-profit policies will not qualify.

Paul Bradshaw, deputy managing director, said that he expected the company to be worth £1 billion when it was floated and said that the restructuring would release hidden value worth at least £200 million.

However, analysts suggested that the Stirling-based mutual was such an attractive target to predators that it would be approached by banks and building societies looking to expand their life business. A successful bid would affect the size of the second bonus earmarked for policyholders.

Norwich Union plans to demutualise in June and give members an average £800 worth of shares. It has slightly less spare cash than ScotAm. Its free-asset ratio, the surplus after financial liabilities have been met, was 11.5 per cent at the end of 1995, compared with ScotAm's 16.5 per cent.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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BBC

The whistle is about to be blown on the teachers' pension scheme set-up, so making early retirement less attractive

Funding switch clouds early retirement hopes

Caroline Merrell says teachers are up in arms over the decision to change pension arrangements

The National Association of Head Teachers is planning to march on Parliament next week to protest over changes to the teachers' pension scheme, which will make it far less attractive to retire early.

At the end of last year, the Government announced that the costs of retiring teachers early should be borne by the local education authority, rather than by the pension scheme itself. The LEAs, many of which are short of cash, are far less likely to allow teachers to retire on the generous terms they previously enjoyed.

The Government estimates that 26,000 teachers will rush to take early retirement ahead of April, before they lose the privilege. The cost to the teachers' pension scheme, which is mainly funded by the taxpayer, is estimated to be around £37,000 per person — a total cost of £962 million. Last year, the cost to the pension scheme of the 13,000 teachers who took early retirement was £468 million. For example, a teacher who retires at 50 will get the same benefits as someone who had worked for another six years. The teachers' pension scheme is also index-linked — another big perk of the job. The generous terms were offered to try to change the age profile of the UK's 500,000 teachers — over two thirds are over 40.

Understandably, when the change was announced, thousands of teachers telephoned their union to find out what they should do. Many are now in the process of applying for early retirement, while those who have agreed to take early retirement at the end of this academic year are bringing forward their retirement to ensure that they do not lose out on up-rated benefits.

One of the main teaching unions, the ATL, has launched a legal challenge to the Government's attempts to prevent a flood of teachers from taking early retirement. It claims that a recent letter from the Department for Education and Employment to the LEAs, stipulating the conditions for early retirement, is illegal, as it is up to the individual boards of governors to decide which teachers to allow to retire.

On the other hand, financial advisers who specialise in offering advice to teachers believe that rushing to take early retirement may not be in the teachers' best interests.

Stephen Ingledew, from Frizzell, the independent financial adviser, said that teachers should try to get advice before rushing in to early retirement. He said: "If you opt for early retirement, check thoroughly the details of your pension benefits. This is the basis of any financial decisions to be made."

He said it could be in the interests of particular teachers to stay in employment — while earning, teachers could boost their pension benefits by taking out additional voluntary contributory plans. AVC plans, which can be used to boost benefits, can be taken out with the employer's own pension, or employees can try to boost their pension with an AVC plan taken out with any provider.

Mr Ingledew said: "Compare the benefits against those you would have received if you retired at 60." He also points out that some LEAs have agreed to honour the existing arrangement for early retirement. He also reminds teachers to check out any state benefits they might be eligible for when they retire. State pensions only begin being paid at the usual retirement ages — 60 for women and 65 for men.

Mr Ingledew suggests that teachers should compare their income and outgoings in retirement against their estimated position if they opted for early retirement.

He said: "The comparative position may not be so bad because even though your pension will be less than your salary, your outgoings may also be lower."

Those who retire give up their rights to death-in-service benefits, equivalent to four times salary. He said: "There may be some need to replace this benefit."

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Fidelity	NO	0.70%	NIL	NO	7.43%	7.66%
M&G	NO	1.00%	NIL	YES	7.15%	7.44%
Perpetual	NO	1.00%	3.25%	NO	7.78%*	7.78%*
Barclays	NO	0.75%	3.25%	NO	7.92%	7.79%

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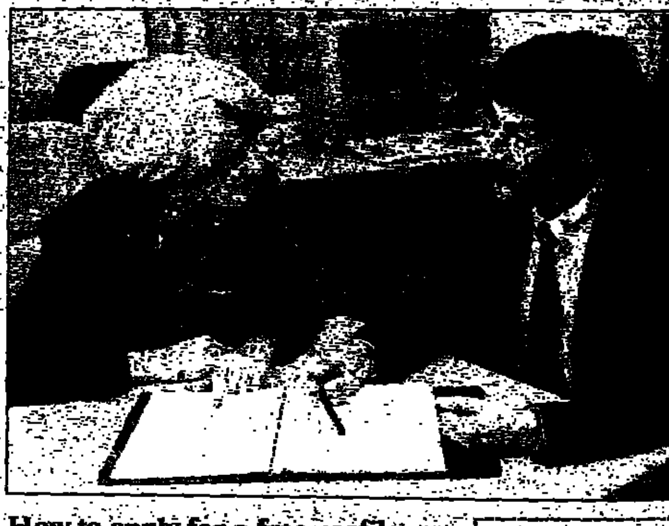

To coincide with our Career series *The Times*, in association with Saville & Holdsworth, international leaders in assessing individuals and jobs, gives you a unique opportunity to receive your personal profile absolutely free. An analysis of the three-page questionnaire, which was inserted in Monday's paper, would be worth £35.

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For a FREE Personal Profile collect four differently numbered tokens from the six which have appeared this week and send them with the application form, below, and the completed questionnaire which was inserted in Monday's newspaper.

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PERSONAL PROFILE
TOKEN 6

PERSONAL PROFILE APPLICATION FORM

When you have completed the questionnaire, attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and send them with this completed form to: **PCL, Munro Business Centre, Munro Place, Anniesland, Glasgow, G13 2UP** to arrive by Friday, February 14, 1997.

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2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week? ....
3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? ....
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month) ....

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

When a statement is not a statement

From the Rev W. R. Blow

Sir, I received a disturbing *document in the post* recently that purported to be a Masterloan Statement. The statement, headed "Below is your account status with Masterloan", shows me to be in debt to the extent of £8,728.80 to it for an alleged £5,000 loan. This, however, is totally untrue. I owe nothing: I have never applied for, nor received, a cash loan *from* Barclaycard/Barclayloan.

I consider it very threatening and *unnerving to* receive fictitious claims of indebtedness of this sort. Such a "statement" must be even more frightening to those (perhaps elderly) who are not so certain in their minds of their financial position.

I should state that I do hold a Barclaycard, which I use. Normally, the whole outstanding amount is paid off each month.

Towards the bottom of the so-called "statement" there is a note: "This is not a bill. Send no money now". This, while being temporarily reassuring, tends to imply that money will have to be paid in the future, and that the addressee is committed to taking a loan. Without a phrase such as "Until you request a loan you are under no obligation to Barclayloan", the whole exercise looks like a very unpleasant attempt to intimidate and demand money from those who are not very certain about their financial matters.

Perhaps Barclaycard/Barclayloan has legally covered itself by adding at the bottom of the "statement" that it is not a bill. However, I cannot possibly see any innocent intent in issuing a document which begins by stating "This is your account status" and ends by saying "This is not a bill send no money now". The aim of this can only be to confuse.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLOW,
46 Crofton Road,
Nottingham.

Come down... and read the Small print, dear
It's a hoax, gran... honest!
GED

Tax returns

From Mr C. Timms

Sir, With reference to Susan Singleton's letter (January 11) on the subject of self-assessment, although the principle that taxpayers will not need to *calculate their own tax bills* following timeous submission of their returns is appreciated, achieving this result by way of assistance from the Inland Revenue is not always to be recommended as, in my experience as a practising accountant, HM Inspector of Taxes does not usually get it right first time, often resulting in tax liabilities being overstated.

Although requesting the assistance of professionals is not essential and remains a matter of personal choice, individuals who engage the services of a qualified accountant can rest assured that they pay the correct amount of tax and not a penny more than is properly due. Furthermore, receipt of independent professional advice can often result in the reduction of taxes due.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TIMMS,
Easterbrook, Eaton & Co,
Old Fore Street,
Sidmouth, Devon.

Who takes the risk in derivative trading?

From Mr Bruce T. Brown

Sir, May I be among the first to compliment your editorial team on its reports (January 11) on the Abbey National equity-linked Tessa and high income bonds.

I repeatedly ask: "Why the sudden rash of derivative-based equity-linked savings and investment products?"

My cynicism tells me that they provide a clever mechanism for the institutions to pass the "risk" of derivatives trading on to private individuals. If the markets do very well over the next five years, the institutions will do very nicely, thank you, but if they falter badly, there may not be much profit. This will not matter because the institutions will not have used their own money.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE BROWN,
10 Trent Court,
Garrard Gardens,
Sutton Coldfield.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime *telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot* always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be *accepted for advice or statements* in these *columns* and independent professional advice should be sought.

The Woolwich float and disqualified investors

From Mr Paul N. Boddam-Whetham

Sir, Having read details of the proposed transfer arrangements of the Woolwich Building Society to Woolwich plc, and as a "disqualified" investor having received the notice about the statutory cash bonus, I have written to John Stewart, chief executive, to highlight the following points:

1. There is an undisclosed number of long-term investors who regrettably had allowed their accounts to drop below £100 at the first reference date of December 31, 1995.
2. A survey of more than 40 *such investors revealed that* their average time with the society exceeded 12 years.
3. *If all "disqualified"* investors were to be included in the allocation of shares, the average cash equivalent bonus would be reduced only by £19, from £1,252 to £1,233, assuming a pessimistic estimate of 40,000 "disqualified" investors. Fewer "disqualified" members mean the reduction would be even less.
4. Members should be given the opportunity at the special meeting on February 11 to resolve that members with less than £100 in a qualifying investment account at December 31, 1995, but who have held such accounts for more than two years, ie, since December 31, 1993, should be included in the basic distribution of shares.
5. "Disqualified" members who have kept up their accounts to £100 at December 1996 are eligible to vote, but are neither to receive shares nor the statutory cash bonus. They thus lose out twice (even though the statutory cash bonus is likely to be less than £10).
6. The Woolwich is lobbying to amend sections of the Building Societies Bill, asserting that if it had known of certain measures, it would have taken alternative action. If long-term *members had known of the* rules about the qualifying criteria, they too would have *taken alternative action. They* too are lobbying for a change to the rules.
7. *The society is being inconsistent* in its recent reminders for investors to top up accounts *to the £100 level,* without being prepared to treat with fairness those "disqualified" long-term investors whose balances had temporarily fallen.

The Woolwich Action Campaign is seeking fair treatment for loyal Woolwich members by highlighting these anomalies and contradictions in the actions of the society.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL N. BODDAM-WHETHAM,
Highwray,
32 Upper Hall Park,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

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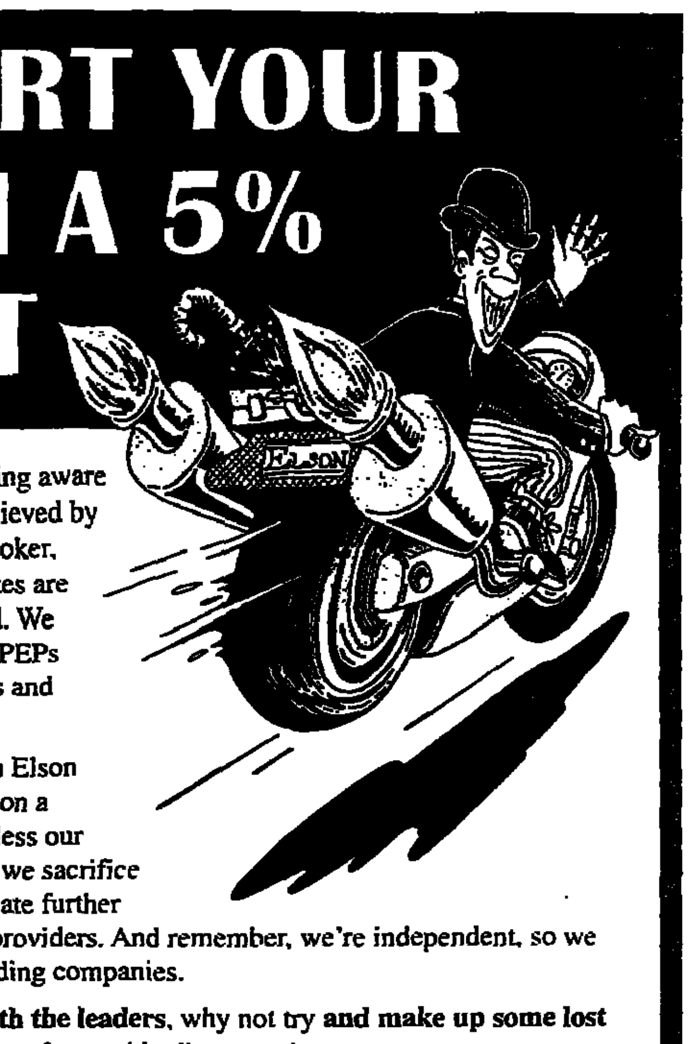

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Halifax Liquid Gold	2.45%	2.45%	2.95%	2.95%	3.25%	3.25%	3.50%	3.50%
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Source: Moneyfacts 14th January 1997

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* Gross. The annual rate of interest paid without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non tax-payers.
** Gross CAR (Compounded Annual Rate). This is the gross rate adjusted to show the annual rate effectively received by a customer if interest applied during a year remained in the account and earned interest (i.e. interest was compounded). Interest rates correct at time of printing but subject to variation.
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مكبر من الأصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to plan an active retirement

THE Good Non-Retirement Guide strips away the mystique of financial planning and suggests ways to ensure greater security for yourself in retirement. Topics covered include pensions, tax, investment, starting your own business, and voluntary work. It also explains the range of benefits to which you are entitled and how to find the right finanical adviser. The guide, written by Rosemary Brown, is published next Thursday, priced £14.99.

■ Birmingham Midshires Building Society has increased savings rates by an average of 0.34 per cent. Young savers with balances of more than £25 in the society's children's account, Smartstart, will benefit the most with a return of 5.80 per cent, a rise of 0.80 per cent. The Quantum High Interest 60-day-notice account rates increase by up to 0.25 per cent (annual) and 0.24 per cent (monthly). The minimum opening balance on the Quantum High Interest account has risen sharply to £5,000 from £1,000 and First Class Instant Access to £10,000 from £1,000.

■ Hinton & Wild, the independent financial adviser, has announced the launch of a new mortgage/annuity scheme in conjunction with Kent Reliance Building Society that will help elderly homeowners to increase their income. Mortgage funds on an "interest only" basis will be made available by Kent Reliance. The interest rate on the loan is fixed for life at 9 per cent per annum. The plan is open to homeowners aged 69 or over and couples need to have a minimum joint age of 145 years. A free leaflet is available from Hinton & Wild Limited, 374/378 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7BB.

■ The fifteenth edition of Chase de Vere's *Pepguide* looks into the second decade of personal equity plan (Pep) investing. The guide includes a full analysis of most of the Peps currently on the market plus a detailed comparison of the features of each individual Pep. The price of the guide is £12.95, which includes the updated July Performance Charts that will be mailed to subscribers on publication. Chase de Vere will refund the purchase price of the *Pepguide* to any investor taking out a Pep through them. Call 0800 526 092 for a copy.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80	½Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Inst by Post	Postal	£1,000	6.00	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.25	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instnt Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.35	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yly
Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	6.30	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000	6.50	Yly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257777	Postal Bonus	30.4.98p	£10,000	7.00	OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 626 0879	Premier	5 year	£9,000	7.20	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.797%N	9.90%N	Nil

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66	£102.59
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78	£101.45
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	14.60%E	£114.25	£102.46

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
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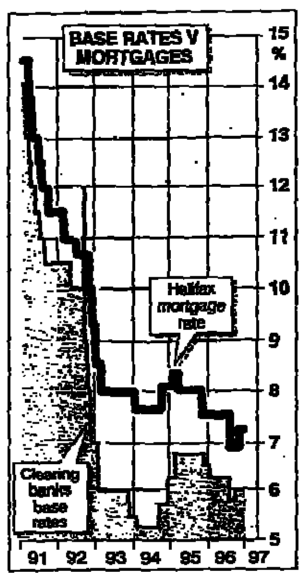
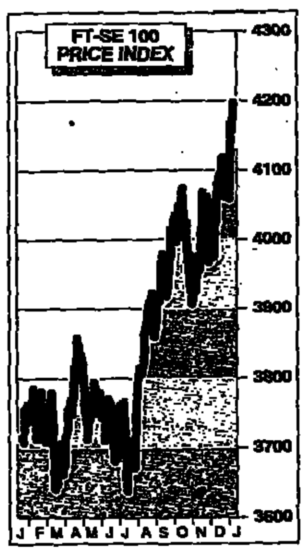
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[5]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**[3]	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* [4]	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†[2]	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond[4]	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†[2]	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3[4]	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000[4]	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years [5]0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [3]£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings [4]Taxable but cred in full [5]£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£ 9,901	£10,976	£12,444
Sun Lf of Can......Level	£ 9,881	£10,920	£12,340
Prudential.............Level	£ 9,860	£10,889	£12,295
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,776	£10,844	£12,248
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,905	£10,824	£12,027

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£9,207	£10,009	£11,188
Prudential ....Level	£9,204	£ 9,956	£11,055
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£9,142	£ 9,880	£10,968
Gen Accident.......Level	£8,907	£ 9,691	£10,837
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,971	£ 9,658	£10,617

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life ....Level	£8,785	£9,398	£10,270
Prudential ....Level	£8,768	£9,357	£10,184
Sun Lf of Can........Level	£8,768	£9,340	£10,157
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,680	£9,186	£ 9,908
Gen Accident........Level	£8,517	£9,129	£ 9,996

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at January 16, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.40
	10,000	AIG Life	5.60
	20,000	AIG Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.25
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.20
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.35
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.35
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.65
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.05
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.70

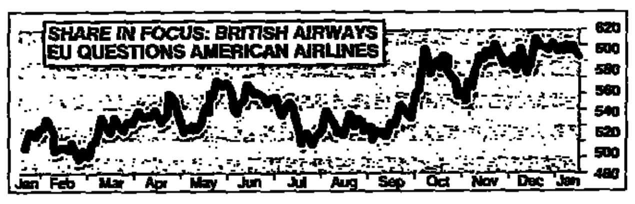
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	104.95	8.922	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	128.68	9.034	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	143.81	9.039	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	148.27	9.021	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	143.19	9.079	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	135.97	8.887	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	126.87	9.262	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	100.76	8.607	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	135.29	8.560	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	156.70	8.695	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	149.25	8.962	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	121.90	8.801	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	143.04	8.826	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	143.78	8.781	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	143.66	8.962	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	110.50	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	101.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471	2.95	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1.1.98
Birm Mid Mort SVS 01344 394000	2.95	£100k+	75	4% disc-31.8.99 2% disc-28.2.99
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% for 1 yr
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 months
Midland 0800 494 999	3.99	£100k+	80	3% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Chorley & District 01257 279373	0.50	£60-120k	80	6% discount for 6 months
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.64	£75-125k	90	6.35% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth, 1%-1yr
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland Bank 0800 494 999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for one year
Coventry 0800 126125	5.11	to £125k	95	2.14% discount for 12 months
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	533.60	564.70	+7.70	...
UK Equity	718.20	760.10	+11.10	...
Property	421.40	446.00	-0.40	...
Fixed Interest	366.50	387.90	+5.20	...
Money	270.80	286.60	+0.30	...
International	411.40	435.40	+9.00	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	195.90	206.30	+2.80	...
Ethical S4	169.10	178.00†	+2.90	...
International S4	217.80	229.30	+4.30	...
Protected Gilt S4	124.60	131.20†	+0.40	...
Asian Pacific	209.00	220.00†	+4.00	...
European S4	221.40	233.10†	+6.10	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	400.50	421.60	-0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	282	296.90	+6.90	...
Man Ser 4	796.60	838.60	+16.50	...
Conv Ser 4	354.90	373.60†	...	...
Money Ser 4	354.50	373.20†	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	401.00	422.20†	+6.00	...
American Ser 4	681.00	716.90†	+23.30	...
High Inc Ser 4	858.60	903.80†	+22.30	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	232.00	244.30†	+2.00	...
Japan Ser 4	280.20	295.00†	-10.50	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2030.40	2137.20	+43.90	...
European Fd Acc	488.90	514.60	-9.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	578.40	608.80	+6.60	...
Gtd Money Acc	362.00	381.00	+0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	739.30	778.00	+5.10	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	371.70	391.20	+3.00	...
Japan Fund	211.50	222.60	+4.20	...
N American Acc	433.10	455.90	+5.20	...
Prop Fd Acc	479.70	504.90	+0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1257.20	1323.30	+22.40	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	406.00	427.40	-0.30	...
Equity Acc	1761.40	1854.20	+45.70	...
Property Acc	663.30	698.20	-0.70	...
Far East Acc	325.30	342.50	+7.00	...
Managed Capital	622.50	655.30	+13.10	...
-do- Acc	1338.60	1409.10	+28.60	...
Overseas Acc	1222.50	1286.90	+35.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	560.20	589.70	+7.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	1145.10	1205.40	+26.80	...
Amer Man Acc	478.50	503.70	+10.60	...
Amer Prop Acc	117.80	124.00	-0.80	...
Distribution Bonds	26.00	27.40	+0.40	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	179.50	188.90	+0.90	...
Balncd Ser 6	873.70	919.60	+18.40	...
Opportunity Ser 6	198.00	208.40	-3.70	...
Distribution Ser 6	107.70	113.30	+1.70	6.71
UK Equities Ser 6	£12.85	£13.53	+31.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£13.31	£14.01	+33.90	...
North Amer Ser 6	596.80	628.20	+3.10	...
Far East Ser 6	555.30	584.50	+13.70	...
Europe Ser 6	491.30	517.10	+7.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	671.70	707.00	+12.00	...
Property Ser 6	609.30	641.30	+0.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	500.00	526.30	+4.00	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	203.10	213.70	+1.40	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	323.20	340.20	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1109.40	1167.80	+27.20	...
-do- Initial	681.20	717.10	+16.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	447.40	470.80	+6.70	...
-do- Initial	277.00	291.60	+4.10	...
International Acc	458.90	483.10	+10.00	...
-do- Initial	282.40	297.30	+6.10	...
Managed Acc	645.20	679.20	+13.70	...
-do- Initial	398.50	419.50	+8.40	...
Money Acc	315.70	332.40	+0.20	...
Property Acc	320.80	337.70	+0.60	...
-do- Initial	197.20	207.30	-0.10	...
America Acc	386.30	406.70	+9.50	...
Far East Gwth	265.10	279.10	+8.90	...
Financial Acc	486.90	512.60	+13.20	...
500 Accum	547.00	570.50	+9.20	...
Japan Acc	223.90	235.70	+6.80	...
Income Acc	656.20	690.80	+16.20	...
Leisure Acc	337.20	350.80	+6.00	...
Special Sits Acc	338.30	356.20	+9.50	...
Unit Tech Acc	187.10	197.00	+4.10	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	[illegible]	974.18	+17.49	...
Income Fund	931.54	980.57	+3.81	...
Extra Income	843.19	887.57	+4.06	...
Worldwide Gth	544.32	572.97	+11.58	...
Balanced Fund	833.47	877.34	+4.70	...
Smllr Cos Recov	£11.06	£11.64	+19.41	...
N Amer & Genrl	476.28	501.35	+12.73	...
Pacific Basin	439.05	462.16	+4.05	...
German Growth	262.92	276.76	+9.73	...
Japan Growth	144.83	152.46	-2.96	...
The UK Gth Fd	270.58	284.82	+1.17	...
Contl Euro Gth	169.30	178.22	+5.43	...
Property Fund	425.50	447.99	-0.48	...
Fixed Interest	371.95	391.53	+5.20	...
Cash Fund	306.84	322.99	+0.23	...
Managed Inv	581.70	612.32	+10.89	...
Nth Amer Recov	319.40	336.22	+1.94	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	542.06	570.59	+2.06	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	202.70	214.90	+5.00	...
Performance Plus	235.40	249.10	+1.30	...
With Profit Perf	189.30	200.30	+0.20	...
UK Opportunity	261.00	276.10	+6.60	...
Euro Opportunity	280.30	296.60	+4.60	...
North Amer Opp	252.50	267.20	+5.70	...
Far East Opp	206.40	218.30	+5.00	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	174.90	184.10	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	212.50	224.90	...	...
Fixed Int	230	243.30	+1.40	...
Cash	171.60	181.50	+0.20	6.49
Overseas	271.30	287.10	+1.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	424.50	446.90	+10.70	...
UK Equity	787.20	828.70	+17.50	...
Property	293.40	308.90	+0.10	...
Money Market	271.90	286.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	337.00	354.80	+5.20	...
Japan	291.10	306.50	+5.30	...
North America	223.90	235.70	+4.20	...
International	422.70	445.00	+6.00	...
European	357.30	376.20	+4.60	...
Far East	154.10	162.30	+5.10	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	402.80	424.10	+6.10	...
Property	266.00	280.10	+2.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	273.50	287.90	+2.30	...
Equity	485.80	511.40	+8.60	...
Cash	231.50	243.70	...	...
C'Life Euro Mgd	446.90	470.50	...	...
C'Life Intl Fd	386.10	406.50	+6.30	...
Managed Fund	860.10	905.40	+13.00	...
Property Fund	559.20	588.60	...	...
Equity Fund	1198.90	1262.00	+21.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	705.50	742.60	+5.90	...
Deposit Fund	358.10	376.90	...	...
Investment Fd	524.70	550.90	+9.40	...
International	614.40	646.70	+9.90	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	171.40	180.50	...	...
Managed Fund	767.00	807.40	+17.70	...
Equity Fund	463.50	487.90	+10.60	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	351.00	369.50	+7.00	...
Ruby	204.70	215.50	+4.00	...
Emerald	161.00	169.50	+0.90	...
Equity	424.10	446.50	+10.20	...
Property	242.40	255.20	-0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	233.50	245.80	+2.40	...
Indexed Secs	186.40	196.30	+1.50	...
Cash	202.80	213.50	..	...
Nth American	317.30	334.00	+7.60	...
Far East	296.50	312.20	+1.40	...
International	279.50	294.30	+5.60	...
Special Sits	464.30	493.00	+7.40	...
Intl Income	375.10	394.90	+8.80	...
European	414.70	436.60	+6.00	...
Japanese	111.50	117.40	+0.70	...
SE Asia	425.60	448.00	+15.10	...
With Profits Reg	187.80	197.70	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	187.80	197.70	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	410.60	432.30	+9.90	...
Equity	524.30	551.90	+15.20	...
Property	228.20	240.30	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	304.00	320.00	+3.50	...
Index Linked	200.30	210.90	+1.60	...
Cash	278.40	293.10	+0.10	...
Nth American	393.60	414.40	+11.90	...
Far East Acc	300.40	316.30	+8.20	...
International Acc	349.60	368.10	+8.40	...
Special Sits	705.30	742.50	+12.90	...
European Flex	600.00	631.60	+10.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	242.77	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	369.49	...	...	...
-do- Cash	218.18	229.66	+0.13	...
-do- Equity	674.89	710.41	+15.23	...
-do- Fxd Int	412.67	434.39	+5.17	...
-do- Managed	481.50	506.84	+10.03	...
-do- Property	361.57	380.60	-8.64	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	215.31	226.65	+0.05	...
-do- Cash Inv	339.51	357.39	+0.33	...
-do- Equity Cap	£17.86	£18.80	+50.53	...
-do- Equity Inv	£28.17	£29.65	+81.62	...
-do- Fixed Cap	445.24	468.68	+6.22	...
-do- Fixed Inv	702.06	739.02	+10.79	...
-do- Index Cap	213.38	224.61	+1.77	...
-do- Index Inv	336.47	354.19	+3.02	...
-do- Mngd Cap	704.93	742.04	+19.14	...
-do- Mngd Inv	£11.11	£11.70	+30.95	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	960.75	..	+16.94	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	111.05	...	+1.40	...
Prime: Managed	486.40	512.10	+9.20	...
Prime: UK Equity	631.80	665.10	+14.70	...
Prime: Intl Equity	330.60	348.00	+7.00	...
Prime: Property	252.80	266.20	-0.40	...
Prime: Fxd Int	265.10	279.10	+2.20	...
Prime Index-Lnk	187.40	197.30	+1.10	...
Prime: Cash	222.30	234.00	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1290.40	1361.60	+2.60	...
Equity II	1915.80	2016.60	+3.10	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) ‡	110.90	..	+0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	106.90	...	+0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	116.30	...	+2.40	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	118.30	...	+2.60	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	109.40	...	+2.70	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	108.10	...	+0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	290.90	306.30	+6.60	...
Managed S1	290.20	305.50	+6.00	...
Adventurous S1	228.90	241.00	+5.70	...
Managed (2)	195.00	205.30	+4.10	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	109.90	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	106.60	...	+0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	115.40	..	+2.90	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	116.40	...	+3.10	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	107.10	...	+3.30	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	107.80	...	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	372.40	385.90	+8.80	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	379.90	399.90	+6.40	...
UK Equity	531.60	559.60	+9.10	...
Stewardship	478.20	503.40	+8.90	...
Overseas Equity	342.70	360.80	+6.70	...
North American	205.70	216.60	+3.90	...
Pacific Basin	175.50	184.80	+4.20	...
European	319.40	336.30	+7.00	...
Property	185.70	195.50	...	...
Fixed Interest	275.50	290.00	+3.80	...
Index Linked	188.60	198.60	+1.40	...
Cash	217.90	229.40	+0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	603.60	635.30	+8.40	...
Managed	841.90	886.20	+16.00	...
Deposit	371.90	391.40	+0.20	...
Property	525.90	553.50	+0.60	...
American	558.30	587.60	+12.10	...
Australian	633.10	666.40	+6.60	...
European	747.00	786.30	+17.70	...
Income Acc	938.50	987.80	+22.60	...
-do- Dist	516.10	543.30	+15.60	4.82
International	360.90	379.80	+7.10	...
Japan Smaller	358.80	377.60	-5.00	...
Singapore & Mal	433.20	456.00	+8.50	...
Smaller Cos	522.20	549.60	+14.40	...
Tokyo Fund	537.00	565.30	+6.00	...
UK Equity	726.50	764.70	+15.10	...
CCM Vangd Mg	904.70	952.30	-0.20	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	333.30	350.90	+8.40	...
GT Plan Wrlde	560.50	590.00	+5.50	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	801.30	801.30	+12.60	...
-do- Inv A	801.20	843.50	+13.50	...
UK Equity	511.10	538.10	+9.50	...
Gilt Plus	228.10	240.20	+1.90	...
Managed	362.60	381.80	+6.20	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	253.30	266.50	+4.40	...
Unitised Profit	158.90	167.30	+0.30	...
UK Equity	370.10	389.40	+7.70	...
Fixed Int	221.30	232.80	+2.30	...
Index-Linked	183.70	193.30	+1.50	...
Cash Deposit	188.10	197.90	+0.10	...
Property	183.20	192.70	+0.20	...
International	198.20	208.60	+4.90	...
American	221.40	233.50	+4.20	...
Japan	191.30	201.20	+3.60	...
Japan Smllr Cos	195.80	206.10	+3.70	...
European	222.10	233.60	+3.50	...
Pacific Fund	320.30	337.00	+6.30	...
Conv Life	159.80	168.10	+1.30	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	577.90	608.30	+10.10	...
Managed Initial	363.60	382.90	+6.20	...
Equity Ord	934.90	984.10	+19.60	...
Equity Init	588.50	619.50	+12.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	223.80	235.60	+1.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	147.10	154.80	+1.00	...
Oseas Equity Ord	431.50	454.20	+7.50	...
Oseas Equity Init	271.60	285.90	+4.50	...
Property Ord	284.30	299.30	+0.40	...
Property Init	178.90	188.30	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	323.30	340.30	+3.10	...
Fixed Int Init	203.50	214.20	+1.90	...
Deposit Ord	224.20	236.00	+0.10	...
Deposit Initial	141.10	148.50		...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	879.10	915.70	...	...
Managed Initial	546.30	575.00	+9.10	...
-do- Acc	817.00	860.00	+13.90	...
Equity Initial	878.90	925.20	+15.60	...
-do- Acc	1314.50	1383.70	+23.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	478.00	503.10	+5.90	...
-do- Acc	714.90	752.50	+9.20	...
Intl Initial	500.90	527.20	+10.20	...
-do- Acc	749.10	788.50	+15.60	...
Nth Amer Initial	252.00	265.20	+5.30	...
-do- Acc	342.90	361.00	+7.20	...
Pacific Initial	212.20	223.40	+4.50	...
-do- Acc	286.10	301.20	+6.30	...
Property Initial	184.10	193.70	...	...
-do- Acc	275.00	289.50	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	169.70	178.60	+1.30	...
-do- Acc	231.00	243.10	+1.90	...
Deposit Initial	205.40	216.10	...	...
-do- Acc	307.10	323.30	+0.20	...
Euro Initial	127.90	134.70	+2.80	...
-do- Acc	160.90	169.40	+3.60	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	30.84	32.46	+0.62	...
Balanced	30.75	32.37	+0.69	...
Opportunity	31.66	33.33	+0.64	...
Deposit	25.62	26.97	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	32.25	33.95	+0.83	...
Balanced	32.02	33.71	+0.98	...
Opportunity	32.98	34.81	+0.85	...
Deposit	26.31	27.69	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	205.00	215.70	+3.40	...
-do- Pens	263.00	276.80	+5.50	...
UK Equity	222.10	233.70	+4.20	...
-do- Pens	268.10	282.20	+6.50	...
International	170.50	179.40	+2.80	...
-do- Pens	189.00	198.90	+3.70	...
Deposit	150.50	158.40	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	182.90	192.50	+0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	708.30	749.60	+8.30	...
British Fund	713.60	755.20	+15.90	...
International	629.90	666.60	+12.60	...
Dollar Fund	568.10	601.20	+9.70	...
Capital Fund	601.20	636.20	+13.00	...
Income Fund	886.30	937.90	+18.20	...
Property Series A	510.90	540.70	+2.60	4.90
Property Units	849.70	892.20	+4.50	...
Financial Fund	833.90	882.40	+30.50	...
Managed Ser A	666.40	705.20	+13.00	...
Managed Units	1302.00	1365.30	+23.40	...
High Yield Fund	797.50	844.00	+16.40	...
Money Series A	314.10	332.40	+0.30	...
Money Units	419.70	441.80	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	769.70	814.50	+16.40	...
Fixed Interest	425.00	449.80	+6.40	...
Indexed Secs	206.20	218.30	+1.50	...
European Fund	920.60	974.20	+20.70	...
Natural Res	320.00	338.70	+5.60	...
Far East Fund	631.20	668.00	+15.60	...
Smaller Cos	700.30	741.10	+16.00	...
Special Sits	669.50	708.50	+16.60	...
Man Currency	280.60	297.00	...	...
Japanese Tech	260.70	275.90	+2.70	...
US Smaller Cos	447.00	473.10	-1.30	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	269.00	285.20	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	67.30	71.80	+2.80	...
Fixed Interest	372.90	392.60	+3.80	...
Gold	81.10	85.50	+2.10	...
Managed	739.30	778.30	+14.30	...
Mngd Growth	234.80	247.20	+3.40	...
Mngd Opp	249.00	262.20	+3.90	...
Property	366.40	385.70	...	...
Residential Prop	114.60	120.80	+0.10	...
TSB American	321.40	338.40	+4.50	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1098.50	1156.50	+21.70	...
TSB European	344.20	362.40	+7.50	...
TSB Income	517.80	545.10	+9.70	...
TSB Intl	482.60	508.10	+11.20	...
TSB Intl Inc	347.70	366.10	+2.60	...
TSB Pacific	442.60	465.90	+8.20	...
TSB Prem Inc	322.50	337.00	+3.60	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 49181				
Global Managed	687.70	723.90	+10.10	...
Global Property	314.50	331.10	...	...
Global Fixed Int	587.70	618.60	+3.70	...
Global Equity	753.40	793.10	+11.30	...
Global Cash	232.00	244.20	-0.10	...
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Intl	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	197.90	208.40	+0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	179.10	188.60	+3.80	...
-do- Acc	236.70	249.20	+5.00	...
Cash Initial	170.90	179.90	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	313.20	329.70	+0.30	...
Equity Initial	812.60	855.40	+20.00	...
-do- Acc	1489.10	1567.50	+36.50	...
Fixed Initial	374.40	394.20	+3.20	...
-do- Acc	686.10	722.30	+5.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	139.30	146.70	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	217.90	229.40	.	..
Intl Initial	339.20	357.10	+5.60	...
-do- Acc	612.00	644.30	+10.50	...
Managed Initial	545.20	573.90	+10.50	...
-do- Acc	999.20	1051.80	+19.30	...
Property Initial	226.70	238.70	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	415.50	437.40	+0.40	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	16794	..	+399.00	...
Property Units	2900	3053	+19.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	7921	8341	+166.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	794.30	836.10	+19.80	...
2nd High Inc Ac	766.30	806.60	+17.30	...
2nd Property Acc	261.10	274.80	+1.00	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	200.30	210.90	+1.70	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	551.20	580.20	+11.50	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	268.20	282.30	+6.00	...
2nd Deposit Acc	307.40	323.60	+0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	343.40	361.50	+2.60	...
2nd Amer Acc	895.30	942.40	+15.80	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	242.90	255.70	+0.60	...
2nd Index Acc	221.40	233.30	+1.50	...
2nd Far East Acc	417.40	439.40	+11.20	...
2nd Global Acc	188.30	198.20	+4.40	...
2nd Euro Acc	191.10	201.10	+4.40	...
2nd Japan Acc	143.10	151.60	+2.40	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.90	180.90	+0.30	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	155.90	164.10	+3.50	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	548.50	577.30	+0.20	...
Managed	493.30	519.20	+7.50	...
American	533.20	561.20	+9.30	...
UK Equity Fd	576.30	606.60	+14.00	...
Japan	156.90	165.10	+2.90	...
Index-Lkd	202.70	213.30	+1.20	...
High Yield	1070	1127	+26.00	...
Money	436.90	459.80	+0.30	...
International	420.60	442.70	+8.90	...
Henderson Active	227.70	239.60	+4.10	...
Perpetual Active	374.30	393.90	+10.80	...
Growth Acc	773.20	813.80	+15.70	...
Gilt Edged	483.60	509.00	+4.10	...
European	176.40	185.60	+3.90	...
Far East	233.40	245.60	+6.30	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	£11.09	...	+22.70	...
Fixed Interest ‡	497.60	...	+7.40	...
Property ‡	462.50	...	+0.30	...
Deposit ‡	319.50	...	+0.20	...
Mixed ‡	707.50	...	+15.00	...
Indexed Stock ‡	242.60	...	+2.50	...
International ‡	321.80	...	+7.00	...
Equity A ‡	256.70	...	+6.40	...
Fixed Int A ‡	220.20	...	+3.30	...
Property A ‡	202.70	...	+0.10	...
Deposit A ‡	187.30	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	231.90	...	+4.90	...
Index Stock A ‡	189.50	...	+2.00	...
International A ‡	200.50	...	+4.30	...
Equity P ‡	954.10	...	+21.20	...
Fixed Int P ‡	675.20	...	+10.80	...
Property P ‡	363.20	...	+0.60	...
Deposit P ‡	383.60	...	+0.30	...
Mixed P ‡	667.30	...	+17.20	...
Index Stock P ‡	277.20	...	+2.90	...
International P ‡	378.60	...	+10.50	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	613.10	...	+10.30	...
-do- Acc ‡	1128.10	...	+19.90	...
Property Cap ‡	141.50	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	348.70	...	...	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	203.00	...	+2.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	359.40	...	+4.40	...
Equity Cap ‡	374.70	...	+6.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	675.30	...	+11.50	...
Internatl Cap ‡	238.90	...	+4.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	425.80	...	+8.80	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	160.80	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	282.30	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	379.40	...	+5.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	681.20	...	+10.80	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	322.00	...	+8.40	...
Capital Growth ‡	2200.60	...	+38.80	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	566.70	595.10	+14.20	...
Amer Rec Bond	649.70	682.30	+7.80	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	299.60	314.70	+0.60	...
Australasia Bd	313.40	329.10	+4.60	...
Commodity Bond	403.40	423.70	+14.80	...
Deposit Bond Acc	391.40	411.10	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1841.60	1933.80	+44.30	...
European Bd Acc	499.40	524.50	+13.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	938.10	985.10	+24.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc	506.80	532.20	+6.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	162.10	170.30	+3.80	...
High Yield Bond	389.30	408.80†	+9.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	228.90	240.50	+1.50	...
International Bd	867.20	910.60	+18.10	...
Japan Bond Acc	186.60	196.00	+1.20	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	183.40	192.70	+3.50	...
Managed Bonds	1064.90	1118.20	+25.10	...
Prop Bond Acc	486.70	511.10	+7.10	...
Rec Bond Acc	942.30	989.40	+14.40	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	362.90	381.20	+8.00	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	282.40	297.30	+5.90	...
UK Equity Acc	429.00	451.60	+9.10	...
Special Sits	117.80	124.00	+2.10	...
Special Sits Acc	179.00	188.50	+3.40	...
North American	233.60	245.90	+5.10	...
N American Acc	355.00	373.70	+8.00	...
Pacific Basin	343.60	361.70	+8.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	522.10	549.60	+13.20	...
Fixed Interest	304.00	320.00	+3.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	462.50	486.90	+5.20	...
Property	182.40	192.00	+0.10	...
Property Acc	277.40	292.00	+0.20	...
Deposit	154.70	162.90	+0.10	...
Deposit Acc	235.30	247.70	+0.20	...
Managed	303.90	319.90	+5.30	...
Managed Acc	425.50	447.90	+7.60	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	430.70	453.30	+0.40	...
UK Equity	454.20	478.10	+10.30	...
Gilt Edged	671.70	707.00	+9.40	...
Interest Fund	432.30	455.00	+0.30	...
Managed Fd	573.60	603.70	+12.30	...
Intl Equity	692.60	729.00	+15.40	...
North American	273.40	287.70	+3.00	...
Far East	451.10	474.80	+14.60	...
Intl Currency	260.40	274.10	+0.30	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	589.40	620.40	+9.50	...
UK Equity	812.80	855.50	+18.30	...
Overseas Equity	537.70	566.00	+9.10	...
American	527.00	554.70	+6.90	...
Far East	573.50	603.60	+14.20	...
Property	233.60	245.80	+0.80	...
Fixed Interest	443.70	467.00	+4.00	...
Indexed Gilt	255.60	269.00	+1.80	...
Deposit	236.00	248.40	+0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 440, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1790.50	1884.70	+39.80	...
Equity Fund	4143.10	4361.20	+72.80	...
Property Fd	665.50	700.50	+2.90	...
Fixed Int Fd	692.00	728.40	+8.60	...
Deposit Fund	382.60	402.70	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	288.10	303.30	+5.40	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	368.40	388.70	+8.60	...
Fxd Interest Acc	277.70	293.00	+3.20	...
International Acc	284.60	300.30	+7.50	...
Managed Acc	257.00	271.10	+5.90	...
Property Acc	205.20	216.50	-9.20	...
Money Acc	167.50	176.70	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	211.80	223.50	+7.60	...
Japan Equity Acc	99.00	104.50	+3.10	...
N Amer Acc	211.90	223.60	+6.30	...
Pacific Acc	144.50	152.50	+5.10	...
European Acc	256.10	270.20	+7.60	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	141.70	149.20	+0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	340.80	358.80	+0.40	...
Inv Equity	1554.10	1635.90	+43.10	...
Inv Managed	1034.40	1088.80	+22.90	...
Ret Managed	1209.90	1273.60	+26.30	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	422.60	440.30	+4.30	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	970.10	1021.20	+13.10	...
Equity Fund	2030.20	2137.10	+27.90	...
Intl Fund	745.70	785.00	+12.00	...
Fixed Interest	647.90	682.10	+5.10	...
Property Fund	488.90	514.70	+0.80	...
Cash Fund	395.90	416.80	+0.20	...
Pacific Basin	366.20	385.50	+8.20	...
N American Fd	374.20	393.90	+4.70	...
Euro Fund	362.00	381.10	+4.60	...
Balanced Fund	192.30	202.50	+2.60	...
Strategic Fund	208.00	219.00	+4.10	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	905.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc	503.70	530.20	...	...
Op Prop	526.90	554.60	+0.70	...
Op Equity	1280.20	1347.50	+22.00	...
Op High Yield	683.10	719.00	+10.30	...
Op Managed	979.20	1030.70	+17.00	...
Op Deposit	425.30	447.60	+0.40	...
Japan Smlr	180.60	190.00	-11.50	...
Managed Gth	350.40	368.80	+4.10	...
British	471.60	496.40	+4.20	...
Global Bond	124.00	130.50	+1.10	...
Gold Share	83.70	88.00	+2.90	...
Japan	322.80	339.70	-9.50	...
UK Smlr Cos	557.40	586.70	+7.40	...
Mngd Growth	577.70	608.00	+5.80	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	469.80	494.50	+9.40	...
Equity Fund	697.80	734.50	+11.40	...
Property Fund	351.30	369.70	+0.30	...
International	554.90	584.10	+14.10	...
Pacific Basin	275.70	290.20	+9.70	...
United States	365.80	385.00	+8.70	...
Gilt Fund	426.50	448.90	+6.60	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	90.00	95.30	+1.10	2.38
Deposit Fund (2)	410.60	434.50	+0.40	6.50
Gilt Fund	590.80	634.80	+6.80	8.46
Global Equity Fd	276.70	292.90	+5.80	...
Property Fund (46)	121.40	128.90	...	7.31
AG Bond Fund	158.00	167.20	+2.90	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	760.20	800.30	+12.20	...
Fixed Interest	418.00	440.00	+4.00	...
Index-Linked	216.60	228.00	+1.10	...
International	506.50	533.20	+10.20	...
Property	321.80	338.80	-1.20	...
Cash	249.70	262.90	+0.10	...
Managed	560.60	590.20	+8.40	...
Cap Gteed Bd	148.50	156.40	+3.00	...
95% Safeguard	98.80	...	+1.60	...
100% Safeguard	97.00	...	+0.60	...
Wealth Pres Cap	101.80	...	+1.60	...
Wealth Pres Inc	12.40	...	+1.70	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	197.478	207.870	+0.26	...
Index-Linked	184.50	194.30	+1.90	...
Fixed Interest	209.40	220.50	+2.40	...
Mixed	316.50	333.20	+5.40	...
UK Equity	313.30	329.80	+6.40	...
International	297.60	313.30	+6.00	...
American	371.90	391.50	+9.00	...
Japan	190.60	200.60	+1.80	...
European	342.00	360.00	+4.20	...
Pacific	381.40	401.40	+10.20	...
Technology	552.90	581.00	+5.30	...
Pnsn Bd/Crncy	239.60	252.30	+0.80	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	232.80	245.10	...	...
UK Equity	464.80	489.40	+12.30	...
American	332.00	349.60	+7.50	...
Pacific	349.00	367.40	+9.10	...
European	600.80	632.50	+11.50	...
Global Mgd	363.10	382.30	+7.90	...
Fixed Interest	271.90	286.30	+3.20	...
Index Linked	219.20	230.90	+1.90	...
Deposit	212.20	223.50	+0.20	...
Managed	350.70	369.20	+7.20	...
Worldwide	137.50	144.80	+2.80	...
Pen Worldwide	148.60	156.50	+3.20	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2066.30	2129.20	+38.00	...
Safety Fund	274.50	289.00	+4.50	...
Growth Fund	285.70	300.80	+6.20	...
Opportunity Fd	287.30	302.50	+7.40	...
Cash Fund	188.50	198.50	+0.20	...
European Fund	447.20	470.80	+9.00	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	234.80	247.20	+3.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	201.20	211.80	+1.70	...
International Fd	321.40	338.40	+6.70	...
North American	318.80	335.60	+9.10	...
Property Fund	131.30	138.30	-0.10	...
UK Equity	318.30	335.10	+8.00	...
UK Smaller	334.50	352.20	+7.10	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	336.10	353.90	+5.30	...
Equity	379.60	399.60	+6.20	...
International	303.20	319.20	+7.40	...
Property	243.70	256.70	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	261.30	275.10	+2.30	...
Index Linked	202.10	212.80	+1.80	...
Cash	201.10	211.80	+0.20	...
Formerly Prulific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	998.70	1051.90	+17.80	...
Cash Fund	366.40	386.10	+0.10	...
Property Fund	317.80	334.90	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	1060.20	1117.30	+20.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	542.40	571.60	+5.20	...
International	428.10	456.50	+9.50	...
High Income	927.30	986.50	+14.20	...
Far East	575.50	612.30	+8.80	...
North American	727.80	774.30	+12.60	...
Special Sits	915.80	974.30	+15.60	...
Technology	1040.20	1106.70	+20.80	...
Extra Income Fd	502.90	535.10	+7.70	...
Gilt Fund	537.10	571.40	+1.60	...
European	186.30	198.20	+3.80	...
Adventurous Mg	250.50	264.00	+5.60	...
Secure Mgd	176.70	186.20	+1.70	...
Equity Inc Dist	141.50	149.20	+1.80	4.03
Managed Dist	126.00	132.80	+1.10	4.77
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	415.50	441.60	+5.40	...
North America	462.40	492.00	+10.00	...
Far East Fund	569.30	605.70	+3.40	...
Global Managed	562.50	598.50	+3.40	...
Deposit Fund	247.20	260.30	+0.40	...
Prime Residential	137.70	145.00	...	...
European Fund	338.10	359.70	+9.70	...
Fixed Interest	62.00	66.00	-0.10	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1214.00	1214.00	+26.90	...
Inv Pol 2	1097.50	1155.30	+25.50	...
Inv Pol 3	1037.80	1092.60	+24.20	...
Inv Cash	343.50	361.70	+0.40	...
Mixed Fund	548.60	577.60	+10.00	...
Equity Fund	707.00	744.40	+17.40	...
Property Fund	268.70	282.80	+0.20	...
International Fd	546.90	575.70	+10.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	436.40	459.50	+7.00	...
Indexed Stock Fd	222.60	234.50	+1.60	...
Cash Fund	248.30	261.40	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	470.90	495.60	+9.20	...
Equity Acc	600.40	632.00	+14.70	...
International Acc	368.40	387.70	+11.80	...
Property	239.20	251.70	+0.10	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH. 0131 225 2552				
Cash	291.50	306.90	+0.20	...
Equity	1336.60	1407.00	+36.30	...
European	202.20	212.90	+4.80	...
Far East	173.10	182.30	+3.60	...
Fixed Interest	458.00	482.30	+3.80	...
Index Linked	236.20	248.70	+1.70	...
International	674.50	710.00	+14.90	...
Managed	871.10	917.00	+21.40	...
Nth American	192.30	202.40	+4.10	...
Property	396.20	417.10	+0.40	...
Pensions				
Cash	466.60	491.20	+0.50	...
Equity	2057.30	2165.60	+69.60	...
European	266.30	280.40	+8.00	...
Far East	137.40	144.70	+3.80	...
Fixed Interest	655.70	690.30	+6.00	...
Index Linked	334.40	352.10	+3.00	...
International	1033.10	1087.50	+32.10	...
Managed	1297.50	1365.80	+39.40	...
Nth American	258.50	272.20	+7.50	...
Property	571.30	601.40	+6.60	...
Stock Exchange	297.70	313.40	+8.60	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	844.20	888.70	+19.10	...
Equity Fund	1173.00	1234.80	+25.80	...
Fixed Interest Fd	469.70	494.50	+4.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	359.00	377.90	+3.20	...
Property Fund	557.90	587.30	+0.20	...
International Fd	772.70	813.40	+26.90	...
N American Fd	381.70	401.80	+2.70	...
Far East Fund	251.60	264.90	+0.10	...
Deposit Fund	325.60	343.00	+0.30	...
Intnl Bd ‡	£105.10	...	+1.70	...
Worldwide Bond	167.70	176.60	+1.00	...
European	235.30	247.70	+3.90	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	846.40	891.10	+14.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	590.70	620.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	652.20	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	603.60	...	+0.40	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	903.60	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	862.30	...	+0.70	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	482.90	...	+0.30	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	506.30	...	+0.30	...
Investment Fd ‡	453.00	...	+9.40	...
Investment (A) ‡	433.30	...	+9.30	...
Equity ‡	1724.40	...	+35.10	...
Equity Acc ‡	1642.80	...	+34.30	...
Money Fund ‡	524.60	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	499.80	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	742.20	...	+15.20	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	442.40	...	+3.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	442.40	...	+3.80	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1358.80	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	247.30	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1847.30	...	+23.70	...
Managed Acc ‡	1018.60	...	+4.60	...
Equity Account ‡	1536.00	...	+12.10	...
Mngd Fund Acc	463.70	488.10	+2.10	...
Equity Fund Acc	663.40	698.40	+5.50	...
Prop Fund Acc	283.40	298.40	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	354.20	372.90	+0.70	...
Money Fund Acc	239.90	252.60	+0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Sec Ac	225.40	237.30	...	...
Pers Pens Acc ‡	2328.50	...	+10.60	...
Pens Mngd Acc	1082.10	1139.10	+4.20	...
Pens Guarantee	297.90	313.60	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	434.90	457.80	+1.00	...
Pens Property	328.30	345.60	+1.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	344.00	362.10	+3.50	...
Pens Intl	283.30	298.20	+2.40	...
Pens Money	263.80	277.70	+0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	220.20	231.80	+0.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1081.40	1138.40	+22.30	...
Property Acc	417.90	439.90	+8.10	...
Equity Acc	1876.60	1975.40	+48.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	472.10	497.00	+7.40	...
Cash Acc	339.20	357.10	+0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	518.60	545.90	+12.00	...
Japan Acc	230.90	243.10	+2.30	...
Pacific Acc	402.80	424.10	+5.60	...
Far Eastern Acc	818.40	861.50	+7.30	...
International Acc	658.90	693.60	+13.40	...
Distribution Fund	304.90	321.00	+6.50	5.84
European	225.70	237.60	+3.90	...
Defind Dist	200.20	210.80	+3.50	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	344.70	362.80	+6.80	...
Property Fund	232.90	245.20	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	254.00	267.30	+2.40	...
Money Fund	218.00	229.50	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	458.90	483.10	+10.00	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	872.80	919.70	+26.10	...
Money Fund	345.20	363.40	+1.10	...
Equity Fund	817.40	860.40	+18.90	...
Fixed Interest	322.40	339.30	+0.90	...
Property Fund	384.00	404.20	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	715.10	753.50	+1.70	...
Income	929.10	979.00	+5.60	...
International Gth	716.40	754.90	+8.20	...
Capital Fund	814.50	858.30	+15.00	...
Recovery Fund	619.50	652.80	+6.90	...
Japan & General	206.10	217.20	+1.20	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	19.59	20.62	+0.09	...
Bear	24.08	25.35	+0.53	...
Owl	27.06	28.48	+0.65	...
Bull	22.40	23.58	+0.55	...
Stag	23.86	25.12	+0.64	...
Gilt Edged	21.67	22.81	+0.40	...
Deposit	16.97	17.86	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	27.45	28.89	+0.05	...
Bear	34.94	36.78	+0.98	...
Owl	38.84	40.88	+1.16	...
Bull	30.30	31.89	+0.91	...
Stag	32.15	33.84	+1.06	...
Gilt Edged	28.37	29.86	+0.07	...
Deposit	22.62	23.81	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	736.74	...	+17.02	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	453.13	476.98	+11.26	...
N Amer Equity	376.16	395.89	+11.38	...
Far East Equity	396.59	417.46	+9.77	...
Fixed	344.99	363.15	+6.30	...
Cash Deposit	222.26	233.96	+0.18	...
Property	167.97	176.81	+0.79	...
Special Opp	460.36	484.59	+12.25	...
Managed	387.58	407.98	+9.41	...
Index-Linked Fd	213.94	225.20	+2.88	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	733.80	769.90	+20.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	428.40	450.90	+0.70	...
Life Equity Acc	£10.82	£11.35	+30.70	...
Life Money Acc	325.10	342.20	+1.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	960.20	£10.07	+26.60	...
Life Intl Acc	557.80	584.80	+31.00	...
Life High Inc Acc	999.10	£10.48	+23.30	...
Life Property Acc	269.10	283.20	+5.60	...
Brewin Equity	850.00	894.70	...	

هكذا من الأصل

Our Economics Editor on a popular government security

Safety through the ages

ECONOMICS EXPLAINED

3 GILTS

Gilts are securities issued by the Government when it needs to borrow money. Short for "gilt-edged securities", they were so named in the 19th century because they were regarded as the *safest form of investment*. In bald terms, the gilt investor lends the Government money in return for interest.

This is by far the most important way the Government finances its deficits. By *the 1990s, over £150 billion* of gilts were in issue, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the outstanding national debt.

■ History lesson. The national debt came into being in 1694 when William III had to raise £1.2 million to finance war with France. The financiers who raised *the money* were given a charter to form a bank. It became the Bank of England.

■ What a gilt gives you. You get a certificate that entitles you to a fixed flow of interest income over a fixed *period*, at the end of which you get a fixed capital repayment. Each gilt has its own name, which gives you much of the information you need. Take, as an example, £1,000 *nominal of 8½ per cent Treasury Loan* 2007. The £1,000 nominal is the amount of a gilt. This is the capital repayment you receive when it matures. The 8½ per cent is the coupon or rate of interest the Government *will* pay. The 2007 is the maturity date when the Government repays the capital.

Treasury loan is simply the name given to a particular gilt. Others are called Exchequer Loan, War Loan or Consolidated Stock. Professional traders in the *gilt market sometimes give gilts* nicknames. Two issues of gilts maturing in the year 2000 were called Grecians after Grecian 2000, the famous haircare product. The 13 per cent 2000 issue was the Big Greek, the *9 per cent 2000* issue the Baby Greek. One index-linked gilt, issued just before one of the elections of Margaret Thatcher's reign and convertible into a conventional gilt after the election, was called a Maggie May.

■ Conventional versus index-linked. The conventional gilt was described above. An index-linked gilt differs in that both the interest payments throughout the life of the stock and the amount payable when it matures are adjusted in line with the British inflation rate. Index-linked gilts, which were dreamt up to give investors some protection against rising inflation, came into being after Sir *Geoffrey Howe's 1981 Budget speech. To* start with, they were restricted to institutions such as pension funds, but in 1982 they were made available to everyone.

■ Prices and yields. The price of a gilt is what you would pay in the market to buy one and how much you would get if you sold the stock rather than wait for the *capital repayment on maturity. The best* way to track gilt prices is in newspaper listings. A price of £99$^5/_{16}$ — rather anachronistically, gilts are still priced in thirty-seconds — means that, for every £100 nominal of stock, the price in the market is £99$^5/_{16}$ or £99.31p.

The *yield* is the way you *measure* the return on your investment. It differs from the coupon because it is an interest rate based on the actual price of the stock, not the nominal amount. One of the most *confusing features of the gilt market is* that, when prices rise, yields fall, and vice versa. Take an 8½ per cent stock whose price is quoted at £99$^5/_{16}$. That means that you only have to pay £99.31p to get the 8½ per cent interest and a £100 capital repayment. In this case, the yield is 8.56 *per cent. Separately, the newspapers* quote redemption yields. This is the total return from buying a gilt, including the flow of interest and the capital gain or loss from holding the gilt until maturity.

■ What moves gilt prices? Two big influences on a gilt price are the likely level of general interest rates and prospects for inflation. A coupon fixed at 10 per cent may look stingy when bank *interest rates* are *at 15 per cent, but* generous when bank rates are down at 6 per cent. The behaviour of inflation is important because higher prices would eat into your return on a security that offers a fixed interest rate.

■ *How to buy and sell gilts.* There are two main methods. You can buy direct from the Bank of England when new stock is issued, generally through a gilt auction. Or you can buy from the market *through your bank or stockbroker or the* National Savings Stock Register.

■ Further information. For general advice and a leaflet *Investing in Gilts: A guide for the small investor* contact the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH; tel 0171-601 4540. For buying gilts through the NSSR, contact the Department for National Savings, Blackpool FY3 9YP; tel 01253 697333. For a list of stockbrokers, contact the London *Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street,* London EC2N 1HP; tel 0171-797 1000.

JANET BUSH

Messengers sprint from the Bank of England with news of a rate change

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*Source: Micropal, offer-to-bid, net income reinvested. UK Equity Income Sector. All figures to 2.12.96. 1% discount only applies to lump sum PEP investments until 1.5.97. Past performance is no guide to the future. The price of units and the income *from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally* invested. PEP legislation can change at any time and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. The GT PEP is managed by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The GT Income Fund was launched in September 1973 and is managed by GT Global Fund Management Ltd *(part of the LGT Group)* which is regulated by IMRO and is a member of AUTIF. Issued by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For Gilts see Govett Units

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc	704.00	749.60	-19.60	2.36
General Inc	587.60	625.20	-16.40	2.36
UK Growth Acc	328.50	349.70	-12.80	2.49
UK Growth Inc	316.20	336.40	-8.30	2.49
Higher Inc Acc	880.20	936.40	-25.00	3.84
Higher Inc Inc	453.80	498.80	-14.30	3.84
Gilts Fxd Int Acc	215.60	227.70	+2.20	5.36
Gilts Fxd Int Inc	94.41	99.71	-0.96	5.36
Nth America	363.90	387.20	+2.20	
Europe	337.00	356.90	+7.10	0.17
Brit Excell	96.55	102.90	+2.40	2.61
Brit Frgnds Acc	124.30	132.30	+2.90	4.33
Brit Frgnds Inc	83.16	88.47	+1.96	4.33
Global Opps	100.70	107.20	-2.00	
Balanced Acc	65.60	69.79	+1.50	2.46
Balanced Inc	61.22	65.15	-1.40	2.46
Japan Acc	36.97	39.34	+0.70	
Pac Basin Acc	408.50	434.60	-15.90	0.77

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	133.30	141.50t	+1.90	6.72
High Inc Equity	193.50	207.00t	+8.10	4.39
Worldwide Bond	267.80	284.00	+1.70	4.71
American Growth	404.90	432.90t	-12.20	0.31
Asian Pacific	326.70	349.40	+9.70	0.39
Assets & Earnings	320.90	343.20	+7.50	2.75
Euro Capital Acc	195.20	208.80	+4.80	0.76
Extra Inc	42.96	45.70t	-0.05	8.01
General	292.80	311.50	+5.60	2.50
Global Opps	71.63	76.20	+2.29	0.52
Japan	90.04	96.30	+2.06	
Managed Inc	49.03	52.16t	+0.70	4.31
Mastertrust	171.80	183.70	-4.90	1.31
US Emerging Cos	204.00	217.00	+4.90	
Ethical	86.53	92.05	+1.56	1.92
International	136.10	144.90	-3.90	0.50
Dividend & Growth	71.58	76.15t	+2.09	4.40
Global Gwth & Sec	74.32	79.40	+0.18	2.34
Latin America	70.89	75.41	-3.22	0.52
Capital Reserve	147.20	147.20	+0.20	4.76

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2478.00	2577.00	+51.00	

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	62.61	65.96	+1.29	0.15
Emerging Mkts	74.59	77.66	+1.39	0.04
European	157.30	163.50	-3.10	
Extra Income #	49.97	52.59t	+1.75	6.19
Far East Emg Eco	137.10	143.40	+1.90	0.47
Fixed Interest #	76.21	77.26	-0.30	8.71
Fund Inv Tst #	158.00	166.50t	+4.30	9.26
Japan	150.60	156.50	-0.90	
Latin American	62.34	64.76	-1.99	0.75
Pacific	80.13	84.74	+1.14	0.37
Property Share	90.17	84.11t	+1.67	2.08
UK Emerging Cos	73.59	79.54t	-2.14	1.21
UK Growth	58.12	60.53	-1.78	1.94
Abtr World Port #	84.40	86.27t	-2.29	2.88
Ethical	80.76	83.99t	+1.97	2.10
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.60	50.65t	-0.32	7.32

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.81	172.99	+4.86	1.07
UK Equity	102.40	109.40	-2.94	3.33
UK Equity & Bd	60.79	64.40	+1.43	8.10
UK Smlr Cos	54.89	58.71	+1.39	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	791.93	833.88	+5.92	4.25
Fxd Int Sec	156.88	157.50	+1.60	9.08

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	787.14	798.04	+13.00	4.31
Investment Acc	536.74	537.30	+60.25	
Fixed Int Inc	127.11	127.61	-1.48	9.09
Fixed Int Acc	236.75	237.68	+2.76	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	87.22	92.04	+1.80	5.44
Beck Bio-Tech	42.39	45.13t	-1.82	
Acorn Ethical Tst	193.33	203.01t	+2.77	0.43
City Fin Assets	80.55	84.58	-0.26	1.82
City Fin Intl	88.44	92.87	+1.07	0.14
Fours Hse Cap	314.50	334.67t	-3.36	2.47
Beckley Wrld Grth	137.65	145.91	+2.85	
J Sld Inc Gth Inc	58.94	61.79t	+1.55	3.38
Stars Utilities	64.12	65.71	+2.11	6.74

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	56.65	59.04	+2.01	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	82.70	87.98	+1.18	
Dragon Growth	74.06	79.20	+1.90	0.22
Equity High Inc	95.88	102.71	+3.08	3.93
-do- Accum	139.68	149.63	+4.37	3.93
Extra Income Inc	28.85	28.29t	+0.39	7.08
Extra Income Acc	29.98	31.56	+0.43	7.09
European Gwth	65.26	69.24	+1.04	0.51
Evergreen	32.00	34.22	+0.49	
General Equity	112.98	119.87	-3.20	2.64
Japan Growth	37.83	40.24	+0.83	
Pedigree Gwth	68.15	72.96	+1.70	2.30
Pedi Sm Cos Inc	39.60	42.58	+0.85	1.12
-do- Accum	42.21	45.39	+0.91	1.12
Retirement Inc #	29.94	31.25	+0.79	5.68
Special Sits	49.14	52.84	+0.94	2.72
UK & Overseas	61.34	65.08	+1.51	0.51

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	74.38	77.47	+1.77	3.90
Capital	88.26	91.93	-2.45	2.49
High Income	53.18	55.38	-0.95	6.52
Top 50	59.89	62.38	+1.84	2.45

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	204.40	212.94	+5.40	4.31
Long Gilt	44.46	46.29t	+0.93	6.05
Monthly Inc Plus	51.37	53.52	+0.95	8.37
Preference Share	48.87	50.91t	+0.71	7.66

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Equities end on steady note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq†	412½	- 6	7.1	12.5
625	477	Bulmer (HP)†	585		2.8	17.4
131	63½	Burn Stewart	73½	- 1½	5.8	79.1
955	615	Glenmorangie A	950	+ 25	1.6	25.9
498	411	Grand Met	432	- 3½	4.6	14.0
493	425	Guinness	432	- 4	4.4	13.4
378	315	Highland Dist	342½		3.0	16.5
303	255½	Matthew Clark	298½	+ 7	10.4	13.8
141	91½	Minghen Wt	107½		5.3	44.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1608½	+ 6¼	2.0	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3081¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3000	- 46¼	3.1	15.6
811	528	Abbey Nat	779	- 6	3.7	14.4
403	315	Allied Irish	409		4.4	11.7
399½	295	Aus New Z	366¼	+ ½	5.2	...
6408¼	3843¾	Bank America	6325	- 84¾	...	
341½	227½	Bank Scotland	334	+ 4½	2.7	12.3
1125	683	Barclays	1110½	- ½	3.2	12.1
588½	413	Bk of Ireland	582½	- 2½	3.7	12.7
6493¾	4091¼	Citicorp	6331¼	+ 6¼		
1575	1290¾	Commerzbk	1290¾	- 9¼	3.5	
1350	684¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	703½	- 18¾	0.6	
3412½	2708¾	Deutsche Bk	2940½	+ 43¾	2.3	
806¼	583½	Espirito Santo	778¼	+ 3½	4.2	11.3
1507	722	Fuji Bank Y	749½	- 32	0.6	...
1480	931	HSBC	1470	+ 18¾	3.2	13.9
1439½	930	HSBC HK	1433½	+ 22	3.3	13.8
499¼	365	Irish Perm	494½		2.9	13.5
487½	294½	Lloyds TSB	469	- 5	3.2	19.9
740¼	568	Nat Aust Bk	694¾	+ 20¾	5.8	9.8
793½	605½	Nat West	784½	+ 2	4.2	11.2
692	464	Ryl Bk Scott	585½	- 3	4.0	13.0
769	547	Stand Chart	752	- 9½	2.0	14.7
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£184¾		1.9	
362	284	Westpac	335	+ ½	3.9	11.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
859	702	Bass†	850	+ 2	3.7	16.8
70	40	Brw to the Bar†	61½	+ 2	3.6	16.8
205	161	Burtonwood Brwt	173½		4.1	15.6
143½	92	City Centre Rest	143		2.0	26.3
563½	463	Compass Gp	562½	+ 15	1.6	26.0
271½	190	Eldridge P A†	271½		2.4	18.6
540	413	Fuller Sm 'A'†	465		2.5	15.5
636	546	Greenalls Gp	575	+ 1½	3.4	17.4
678½	567¾	Greene Kingt	678½	....	3.0	16.7
285	164½	Grosvenor Inns	165½		4.4	17.6
259	204	Groupe Chez Ger	236	+ 11½	1.5	22.9
357	276½	Hardy Hanson	284½	+ 1	4.8	
3475	2700	Holt J	2725		2.6	14.7
72	45	Inn Business	70		1.0	33.1
355	298	Mansfield	351½		2.2	16.2
353½	252	Marston Thmp	288	+ 3½	3.3	10.8
673	535	Morland†	587½	-	2.7	15.2
188½	118	My Kinda Town	188		2.0	16.4
72½	38½	Paramount	44½	+ ½		
606½	217	PizzaExpress	601½	- 1	0.8	46.3
438	245	Ramsdens (H)	370	- 2½	1.7	39.7
367½	138¾	Regent Inns	367½	+ 14	0.7	42.7
700	601	Scott & Newt	686½	+ 11½	3.7	20.8
313	246	Vaux Group†	285	+ ½	5.2	12.1
1255	640	Wetherspoon JD	1160		1.0	29.8
780½	672	Whitbread†	768½	+ 4½	3.6	15.6
693	578	Wolvehampton Dy	664½	+ 4½	3.2	14.6
453½	397	Yates Bros†	449½		1.1	29.1
650	425	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
457½	328	Electrocomponts†	453½	+ 1½	1.9	27.5
314	125½	Eurodis Elec	180½		3.3	18.0
134½	85	Eurodollar†	133½		5.6	13.6
105	76	European Mk	88	- ½	7.5	9.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	281½		7.9	10.2
87	38½	File Indexr	42½		9.7	8.4
400	240	Flextel Gp	400	+ 2½	2.0	23.0
33½	15½	Gardiner	30½	+ ¼	3.6	12.2
81	33¼	Glenchewton	68		1.9	30.1
97½	70½	Gowrings	88½		4.0	14.7
107	72	Hamler	88½	+ ½	8.5	8.2
292	216	Harris (Philip)†	247½		4.4	15.1
317½	280¾	Heatham	316¼	+ 1½	2.3	26.2
300	182	Holders Tech	181½		5.0	14.2
242½	153	ISA Intl	218½	+ 1	7.4	18.9
316	231	Inchcape	260	- 2	3.9	22.2
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
250	189	Jardi-Fil	230	- 1	2.8	18.6
390	299	Low Service	332½	- 2	5.8	19.6
155	105	Lookers	117	- 3	8.5	6.9
17	10½	Malaga Gp	11	- ¼	7.5	11.8
9¼	5¾	Middlesex	8½		1.5	9.8
47	31	Midstates	40¼		0.7	..
565	440	Motabert	457½	- 1	2.2	12.7
174½	115	Northamber†	158½		0.9	3.3
380½	201½	Pafco	360½	+ 5	2.5	17.3
378½	272	Pendragon	378½		3.1	18.3
211	146	Perry Gp	201½		5.2	10.3
752½	602	Premier Farnell	686½	- 6	2.0	27.1
190	135	Quicks Group	148½	+ 1	5.5	11.0
346	185	REA	340		1.5	40.7
3	2	Reece	2½	...		
54	30	Ronson	28		7.2	9.8
4½	2	Ross Gp	3½			
56	36½	SEP Intl	36½		6.1	9.6
196	80	Sidlaw	91½	+ 10½	1.4	29.7
417½	246	Time Products	388½		3.5	15.9
301½	123	UNIECO†	285		2.3	19.0
347½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	345½	+ 12	2.5	15.1
523	325	WF Elec†	523	+ 19	3.1	22.3
59	25¼	Wadsworth†	37	- 1½	2.9	10.9
170½	75½	Wyko	170½		1.6	24.1
146	104	Young (H)†	135½	+ 6	3.9	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
388	286	Autologaspia	387½	+ 2½	1.9	13.1
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	327½	+ ½	2.8	
1058	785	Broken Hill	876	+ 1¼	2.7	28.8
840	238	BTR	251	- 1	4.8	18.8
536	411	BAT	498	- 5½	6.2	9.6
147½	108	Bibby (J)†	138	+ 1	6.9	7.9
85	50½	Brierley Inv	58	+ 1	8.0	9.8
972	715	Charter	730	+ 30	4.8	10.4
328	205	Cookson	284½	+ 1	4.0	14.1
228½	141	Cosalt†	228½	+ 3	5.4	11.1
285	204	DCC	257½		3.3	18.2
141¼	108½	Grampian Hdg	116½		6.7	12.0
133½	75½	Hanson	92	+ 3	17.5	4.6
172½	118½	Harlen Crsfd	130½	+ 2	8.6	12.8
482	378½	Hutch Whamp	478	- 3½	1.5	27.6
429	352	Imperial Tobacco	394	- ½	6.3	7.9
387½	344½	Jardine Math	371½	+ 1½	4.0	
217½	118½	Londo	127½		4.8	11.3
191	164	McLeod Russell	174½	+ 1	4.8	14.2
478	358	Powell Duffryn	405½	+ 2	7.7	15.8
148	97	Raynor	120½		8.6	10.4
232	179½	Staveley	187		6.1	13.4
807	498½	Swire Pacific	555½	- 2	2.0	23.8
358	268	TI Group	338½	+ 1	2.6	16.1
284½	232½	Tomkins	278	+ ½	4.7	13.7
295	167½	Unitech	200		9.1	
512½	385	Wardle Storeys	493½		4.8	18.3
322½	254	Wassall	312½	- 1	2.4	18.4
237	129½	Williamscot	156		4.9	12.5

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	32	Samon Eng	40		2.0	14.9
307	150	Six Hundred	306		2.9	4.1
833½	622	Smiths Ind	762		2.7	19.5
786½	593	Spirax-Sarco	720½		2.4	20.1
324	287	Stirling Indt	302½	...	3.7	15.2
528¾	458	TT	548	- 2½	3.1	19.6
124	92	Tinsley (E)†	113½		6.5	11.8
121	72	TransTec	110½		2.6	19.7
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd†	204	...	4.3	11.5
162½	137	Unicorn Ind	152½		4.5	13.6
82½	47½	Utd Inds	58½		4.8	9.6
302	241	Vickers	258½		3.4	18.0
14	8¼	Wiles Gp	9½			
770	656	Vitec	705	- ½	1.9	13.2
940	750	Vosper Thorny	939	...	3.2	15.7
436	293	Wagon Indl	339		7.3	10.4
273½	212	Weir	224	- 1½	4.1	14.6
275	228	Wellington Hdg	255½		3.8	15.9
58	26	Wellman†	28	- ¼	8.0	6.1
59½	35	Wescol	54	- 1	2.3	28.7
575	383	Whatman	574		2.7	23.5
122	42½	Widney	62½		7.3	18.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	108	Adwest	130		7.5	27.7
295	180	Airflow Stream	191½	..	5.2	8.2
753½	473	Avon Rubber†	725		3.4	14.0
107	57¾	BSG	105½		3.9	16.4
359	227½	Bostrom	253½		3.4	10.4
29	15	Brooklands#	16½		7.6	38.7
707	431	First Tech	706	..	1.7	20.8
1198	778	GKN	982	+ 10½	3.2	17.0
3800	2950	General Mtr	3287½		2.9	
569	497	Henlys	581		2.8	14.8
1832¼	1312½	Honda Motor	1629	- 47½	0.4	
582	386	Laird	403	+ 1½	3.8	12.2
490	425	Lookers†	490		0.3	46.4
282	172	LucasVarity	216	- 4½	0.0	..
153½	91	Mayflower	142		1.8	40.3
193	145	Sykes†	163½		4.5	12.0
190½	120½	T & N	172½		4.3	12.1
116	73	Tead	82½			
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs†	309	+ 4	3.4	15.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
494	355	AB Food	485½	- 6½	2.5	15.8
288½	233	Acatos & Hutch	287½	+ 5½	4.4	37.9
53	38½	Albert Fisher	45		10.4	10.9
325	265	Banks (S C)	280	+ 1½	5.1	10.4
390	313	Barr (AG)	390	+ 6	2.9	
38	21	Barsons Cmp	38		0.8	8.7

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60½	37½	Rutland Tst	58½	+ 1	2.7	17.4
122½	42	SEC Group†	118½	- 1	5.0	10.6
457	290	S & U	400		5.2	10.1
1669½	1186	Schroders	1652½	+ 7½	1.2	18.8
1509½	890	Schroders N/V	1497½	+ 7½	1.5	17.0
139½	99½	Singer & Fried	138	- ½	3.8	10.1
57	33	Towry Law	39			
8	5½	Tring Hldgs	4			
115½	71	Union	80	- ½	4.7	8.6
360	263	Wintrust	337½	+ 2½	4.8	15.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163¾	Brit Biotech	204½	+ 3		
715	340	Cantab Pharm.	700	+ 7½		
693	441	Celltech	605	+ 25		
588	274	Chiroscience	320			
447	149½	Cortecs	215	- 1½		
1034½	767	Glaxo Well	941½	+ 6½	4.0	16.9
475	194	ML Laboratories	242½	+ 1		63.4
286	209	Medeva	263	+ ½	2.0	14.9
266½	175½	Proteus Thera	248½			
808	524	Scotia	730			
266	179	Shire Pharms	226	- ½		34.3
96	68	SkyePharma	83½			
834½	628½	SmithKline	813	+ 12½	2.4	29.4
537	298½	Therp Anti Inc	351	+ 21		
633	457½	Vanguard	542½	- 5		..
228	192	Xenova	228	- 4		
1768½	1216	Zeneca	1664	- 2½	2.4	36.0

PRINTING & PAPER

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
155½	127½	AG Holdings	141		5.3	11.7
752	547	APH	751		1.8	23.9
140	47½	App Holo	58½			
212	149	Arjo Wiggins	185½	+ 4	5.0	
295	87½	Aspen Coms	129	+ 4	6.1	10.2
30½	12½	Bath Press	30½	+ ½	2.8	11.2
437½	339	Bemrose	437½		4.2	14.6
229½	138	Burgden	228½		1.3	19.3
2725	2037½	Bowater Inc	2562½	+ 18¾		
346½	309½	Boxmore Intl	315½	- 1	1.1	24.9
770	645	Br Polythene	716½		3.0	15.3
38	16	Br Thornton	18½	- 1½		
168	130	Britton Grp†	131	- 1	3.0	11.2
245½	191	Bunzl	216	- 2½	3.5	13.4
233½	170½	Capital Inds	225½		3.0	15.6
378½	270	Cropper (James)	351½		1.5	12.9
756	536½	De La Rue	585	+ 1½	5.1	14.9
95	73	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.6
224½	131	Dolphin Pack	224½		3.2	18.3
117½	74½	Fairway Group	75		6.6	12.3
267	190	Ferguson Intl	231	- 4	7.2	12.3
275	127½	Filtronic	149½		3.0	11.1
177	112	Inveresk	130½		5.5	11.7
310	186½	Jarvis Porter	215½	+ 4½	4.0	12.7
574	398	Low & Bonar	424½	+ 7	4.0	11.8
116½	66	MY Holdings†	111	- 3½	2.7	16.9
263	166	Macfarlane	181		2.7	15.2
134	93½	Nobo Gp	95		8.4	6.5
441½	282	Photobition	428½	- 4	2.0	21.8
201	156½	Plysu†	168		5.5	16.4
41	26	Porter Chadburn	32	+ ½	1.0	11.6
410	323½	REXAM	347½	+ 5	5.1	16.7
512½	425½	St Ives Gp	500½	+ ½	2.5	18.3
1047½	500½	Sappi	581½	+ 7	3.1	
8	2½	Semi	2½			
148	87	Sidlaw	105½		2.4	

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
209½	149½	MFI	192		3.0	18.6
532	416½	**Marks Spencer†**	498	+ 7½	2.9	19.6
535	445	Menzies (John)	480	+ 2½	3.6	12.4
25¼	15½	Merchant Retail	25			79.5
1305	615	Moss Bros	1212½	- 12½	2.0	24.7
603½	430	Next	571	+ 13	2.8	23.0
63	31½	Oliver (G)	36			
555	400	Ottakar Intl	502	+ 8	3.1	15.3
85½	66	Partridge Fine	71½		5.1	12.1
56	30½	QS Hldgs	31½		6.2	
329	191	Rosebys	309½		2.5	23.2
106	84	Sears	88½	+ 1½	5.6	72.1
34¼	14½	Signet Group	37½	- ¼		
534	299	Smith WH	431	- ½	4.5	
1110	820	Sothebys	1060	- 5	1.8	
362	246½	Stonehouse†	275	+ 17½	3.4	18.3
157	90	Stylo	150	- 1½	4.2	21.7
231	165½	T & S Stores	180		6.1	11.5
418	247½	Tandy†	251½	+ ½	6.6	22.6
182½	159	Tie Rack	187½		1.9	19.7
4	2½	Upton & South	3½			36.5
664	507½	Vendome†	507½	- 2½	2.5	16.8
29½	12	WEW Group	24½			
859½	168	Wickes	168½	- 2		
34	57	Wld of Leather	89½		2.4	
237½	198	Wyevale	237½		3.1	17.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1552½			
452	314½	AEA Tech†	442½	- 5	2.1	20.6
135	92	Alpha Airpts	112	+ 2	5.6	14.3
39	26	Alphameric	36			13.1
387½	215	Amec WS	360	- ½	2.2	26.2
190	129	BNB Res	182½	+ 2½	5.2	6.8
407½	282	BPP	402½		3.6	19.5
303	155	BSM	175		5.1	11.6
535	283	BTG	477½	+ 5	1.0	
110½	80	Brooks Service	85½		4.7	13.7
500	373	Business Post	497½	+ 5	2.2	26.4
1000	329	CMG	975	- 12½	0.8	43.9
276½	111½	CRT Grp	226	- 1½	2.3	28.4
958¼	187	Cand Gp	637½		0.6	4.9
565	285	Capita Group	561½		1.0	46.5
10½	5½	Chemex†	7		5.4	
386	308	Chubb Sec†	310	- 4	3.5	15.1
317½	92	Corp Services	317½	+ 4½	2.6	26.5
59½	46	Coutts Cnslg	55		4.9	17.7
275	73	DCS Gp	258½	+ 6	6.7	32.6
276½	202¾	Davis Service	234½		5.1	12.7
800	367	Delphi	800	+ 7½	0.7	27.9
252	98	Dudley Jenkins	234	- 13	2.1	21.8
82	38	EW Fact	67½		3.1	10.3
116	69½	El Data Prc	70		4.0	
593	245	FI Group	591½		0.9	51.5
561½	362	Hays	554½	- 4½	1.8	24.9
313½	210	Hogg Robinson†	300½	- 12	3.8	13.9
678½	360	JBA Hldgs	676½	+ 9	0.9	40.5
311	253	Johnson Clean	258½		5.5	10.8
149	101½	Kalamazoo†	108½	- 1½	4.9	11.2
617½	351	Kewill Syst	604	+ 15½	1.8	16.5
41	13	Laser-Scan	27½			
201½	135½	Lavendon	194½		2.2	15.3
139	90	Leigh†	110		4.4	
997½	452	Logica	985½	+ 12	1.0	37.2
99	68	Lyon Hldgs†	93½	- 3	2.3	17.4
32	30½	MDIS	56	+ 6	2.7	
627	246	MMT Comp	582½	+ ½	1.9	35.2
101	66	MR Group	94	+ 1½	4.8	17.4
520	398	Macro 4	492½	+ 2½	6.2	13.1
92½	77½	Menmore Abbey	87½			70.4
1340	553	Micro Focus	1037½	- 5		
192	141	Microgen	148½		6.4	10.1
1132½	570	Misys	1100	+ 16½	1.2	25.0

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	529	Utd Utilities	670	+ 6½	6.4	12.1
385	295	Wessex†	382½	+ 4	5.2	7.6
791	580	Yorkshire†	712½	+ 2	5.6	9.4

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	18	Abacus Recruit	102½			79.2
213	95	Cafe Inns	175		1.7	13.5
171½	58	Country Gdns	161½	- 1	1.1	16.6
2500	860	Dawson Hldgs	2500	+ 50	2.0	18.9
47	14	Freepages	44	+ 1		
117	88½	Megalomedia	92½			51.9
475	72½	Memory Corp	80			
222	65½	Old English Pub	215½		0.9	67.7
590	151	Prem Rail▲	580	+ 50		
1030	379	Ramco Egy	1025		0.1	
683½	520	Southern News	683½	+ 2	3.2	19.5
79½	50	Southern Vecto	67½		3.5	15.6
438	122	Surrey Fr Inns	434		0.6	37.4
79½	44	Trocadero	54½	- 1½		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101¹¹⁄₃₂	100⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 7% 1997	100⅝	...	6.97	6.21
107⁷⁄₃₂	100⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 13¼% 1997	100⁹⁄₁₆ †	..	13.23	7.56
102⁷⁄₁₆	100¹¹⁄₃₂	Exch 10½% 1997	100²¹⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	10.46	5.81
102²³⁄₃₂	101¾	Treas 8¾% 1997	101¹⁄₁₆	- ¹⁄₃₂	8.63	6.25
114²⁷⁄₃₂	108¹⁵⁄₃₂	Exch 15% 1997	108⁷⁄₁₆		14.09	6.27
106⅞	104⁵⁄₁₆	Exch 9¾% 1998	103⅞ †		9.45	6.39
109¹⁵⁄₃₂	100⅞	Treas 7¼% 1998	100²³⁄₃₂		7.18	6.45
116⁹⁄₃₂	109⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	109¹¹⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	12.80	6.56
122⅝	113²⁷⁄₃₂	Treas 15½% 1998	113⅞	- ¹⁄₁₆	13.61	6.66
114⅝	108⁷⁄₃₂	Exch 12% 1998	109⅛	- ¹⁄₁₆	11.00	6.63
108⅝	97¹¹⁄₁₆	Treas 9½% 1999	105⅛	- ¹⁄₁₆	9.04	6.68
116⁹⁄₃₂	110⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	111⅛	- ¹⁄₁₆	11.03	6.73
112⅞	107	Treas 10½% 1999	109	. .	9.72	6.73
98¼	96	Treas 6% 1999	98⁹⁄₃₂	- ¹⁄₃₂	6.10	6.70
112¹⁵⁄₃₂	107⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	108⅝	- ¹⁄₃₂	9.44	6.83
108¹⁵⁄₃₂	103²³⁄₃₂	Conv 9% 2000	105⁷⁄₁₆		8.50	6.86
105⅛	101⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2000	103¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	7.73	6.93
124²⁵⁄₃₂	117⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 13% 2000	118¹³⁄₁₆		10.98	6.96
114	100²³⁄₃₂	Treas 10% 2001	110⅝	+ ¹⁄₁₆	9.06	7.03
101¹³⁄₁₆	96⅝	Treas 7% 2001	99⁹⁄₁₆	+ ¹⁄₁₆	7.02	7.04

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
114⅝	108⅛	Treas 9¾% 2002	111²³⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₁₆	8.72	7.15
105²³⁄₃₂	99⁹⁄₁₆	Treas 8% 2003	104⅛	+ ¹⁄₁₆	7.68	7.16
117⁵⁄₁₆	110⅛	Treas 10% 2003	114¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	8.75	7.22
121⅛	114⅛	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115²⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₃₂	9.93	7.06
85⅛	78⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	84⁹⁄₁₆	- ⅛	4.13	6.83
114⅛	107¹⁵⁄₁₆	Conv 9½% 2004	113	+ ¹⁄₁₆	8.41	7.27
97¹⁵⁄₃₂	91⅛	Treas 6¾% 2004	97⅛	+ ¹⁄₁₆	6.95	7.24
108²³⁄₃₂	101⅞	Treas 8½% 2005	107¹⁵⁄₃₂	+ ¹⁄₁₆	7.91	7.34
114⅝	108⁹⁄₃₂	Conv 9½% 2005	113⅝	+ ⅛	8.40	7.34
131⅛	123²³⁄₃₂	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127²³⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	9.77	7.24
107¹⁵⁄₃₂	99¹³⁄₁₆	Treas 7¾% 2006	104⅛	+ ⅛	7.44	7.39
103⅝	95⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	102¹¹⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	7.57	7.40
104¹¹⁄₃₂	97⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	102⁹⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	7.79	7.30
125⅛	115⅛	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121⁷⁄₁₆ †	+ ⅛	9.66	7.21
108⁷⁄₃₂	101⁷⁄₃₂	Treas 8½% 2007	107⅛	+ ⅛	7.89	7.42
112²⁵⁄₃₂	103¹¹⁄₃₂	Treas 9% 2008	111⅛	+ ⅛	8.05	7.47
104⁹⁄₃₂	96¹³⁄₃₂	Treas 8% 2009	103⁹⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	7.70	7.52

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
89¹¹⁄₁₆	81⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	88⁹⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	7.04	7.57
113⁹⁄₃₂	104⅛	Conv 9% 2011	112¹⁄₃₂	+ ⅛	8.01	7.57
114⅝	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	Treas 9% 2012	112⅝	+ ⅛	7.98	7.58
84⅛	75⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	83⅝	+ ⅛	6.61	7.32
105⅝	95⅛	Treas 8% 2013	103¹¹⁄₁₆	+ ⅛	7.72	7.60
103⅛	93⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	101¹⁹⁄₃₂ †	+ ⅛	7.62	7.59
106⅛	95¹⁄₁₆	Treas 8% 2015	104⅛	+ ⅛	7.68	7.57
113½	102½	Treas 8¾% 2017	111⅝	+ ⅛	7.84	7.62
146⅛	130⅛	Exch 12% 2013-17	142⅛		8.45	
108¹⁄₁₆	95¹⁄₁₆	Tr 8% 2021	104⅝	+ ⅛	7.66	7.57

UNDATED

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
46⅝	41⅛	War Ln 3½%	45⅝	- ⅛	7.66	
32⅝	29⅛	Treas 2½%	32⅝	+ ⅛	7.63	
51⅝	46⅛	Consols 4%	50⅝	- ⅛	7.90	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114⅛	111⅛	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114⅛	+ ⅛	0.24	2.06
185⅝	178⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2001	185⅝	+ ⅛	2.58	3.30
182⅝	171⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2003	182⅝	+ ⅛	2.61	3.26
119	112⅝	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	118⅝	+ ⅛	2.89	3.28
192⅛	179⅝	Treas IL 2% 2006	192	+ ⅛	3.07	3.37
173⅛	161⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2009	172⅝	+ ⅛	3.17	3.42
179⅝	166⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	178⅛	- ⅛	3.26	3.48
148	136⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2013	146⅝	- ⅛	3.32	3.52
157⅛	145⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	156⅝ †	+ ⅛	3.38	3.57
151½	138⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	149⅝	+ ⅛	3.46	3.62
126⅛	115⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123⅝ †	+ ⅛	3.47	3.62
124⅛	113⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121⅝ †	- ⅛	3.47	3.62

هكذا من الأصل

Losing run casts shadow over coach's arrival while Scotland seek to reinforce home rule

Ashton driven by need to change luck of the Irish

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

BRIAN ASHTON *may possess* the look of a leprechaun, but it may be too much to ask the former Bath coach to conjure some of the magical properties attributed to Ireland's mythical little men. In any event, Ireland felt sufficiently *confident in their preparations* for the rugby union five nations' championship match with France at Lansdowne Road today to *cancel their light training yesterday* and opt instead for relaxation.

That was *in marked contrast* to their opponents, who travelled from Paris after losing the services of Richard Dourthe. The Dax centre was knocked *out during training* on Thursday and his place goes to Stephane Glas, which could act in France's favour. Glas is a talented performer and less prone than Dourthe to fits of temperament that have cost penalties in the past and, after *the meeting with* England last year, led to a suspension for kicking Ben Clarke.

However, Dourthe is also the team's goalkicker: and he scored four out of five attempts against South Africa last month in a team that also included Christophe Lamaison, the long-range kicking exponent. Those duties will now be shared between Thomas Castaignède and Alain Penaud, both of them *accomplished marksmen on* their day yet both returning to the international arena after a period of absence.

Yet it is not in the area of goalkicking, significant though that is, that Ireland may struggle in the match, *sponsored* by Irish Permanent. After all, they have Eric Elwood in their ranks and he has scored 135 points in his 16 internationals. It is in the matter of tries that Ireland stand deficient. They may argue that France have fared *little better at try-scoring this* season — four against Wales in *September were followed* by none in two games against South Africa — but their opponents' potential remains high.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

*Pierre Villepreux, newly in*stalled as the assistant coach, has emphasised all week the need to keep the ball in hand and it is impossible to believe that their midfield cannot create enough opportunities out of the damp Dublin air to give them their thirteenth successive win against Ireland. Unless, of course, Ashton has distilled sufficient drive into the Ireland forwards *to deny France* the opportunities they seek.

"I have tried to build the confidence of the players, after the poor results of the previous three games, and provide a framework of the game with which they feel comfortable," *Ashton, who only joined his* charges in Limerick last weekend, said.

"The *quality of the set-piece* game has to be paramount but there are forwards who can run, handle and cause the opponent problems," Ashton said.

"The framework must give the players options and I have *tried to get over the message of* personal responsibility on the field, not just relying on one or two *players to dictate the* course of the game. It's a simple formula but it does allow flexibility and it is designed specifically to play against France.

"There are certain things one can expect the French to *do well but, though they have* all-round strength, they will only do some of those things well *if we let them*.

"The whole mood of the squad has been upbeat and positive this week. This is about Ireland, not about France, and focusing on what Irish players do well; we have no new caps, all of them have been *there before and know* what they have to do.

"If the players have any *misgivings, then they are hiding* them well. I have found them very supportive and *enthusiastic, they have work*ed hard and I hope we have established a positive relationship.

"It's taken them 3½ days to get to where I wanted them to be and at times I thought we weren't going to make it — but the proof of the *pudding* will be on Saturday."

Under the coaching of Mur*ray Kidd, Ireland lived in the* shadow of defeat, though many will feel that was more the fault of the *playing* structure than of Kidd, the New Zealander who was dismissed in the wake of the defeat by Italy earlier this month.

*Yet France, too, have to re*establish their credentials after losing both their away championship matches, in Scotland and Wales, last season. Their success in European club competition suggests that they remain as *competitive as ever but now* the national strings must be drawn tighter together.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

IRELAND		FRANCE
C M P O'Shea (London Irish)	15	J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)
J A Topping (Ballymena)	14	E Ntamack (Toulouse)
J C Bell (Northampton)	13	S Glas (Bourgoin)
M J Field (Malone)	12	T Castaignède (Toulouse)
D J Crotty (Garryowen)	11	D Venditti (Brive)
E P Elwood (Lansdowne)	10	A Penaud (Brive)
N A Hogan (Terenure College)	9	F Galthié (Colomiers)
N J Popplewell (Newcastle)	1	C Califano (Toulouse)
K G M Wood (Harlequins)*	2	M Dalmaso (Agen)
P S Wallace (Saracens)	3	F Tournaire (Narbonne)
D S Corkery (Bristol)	6	A Benazzi (Agen)*
P S Johns (Saracens)	4	O Merle (Montferrand)
J W Davidson (London Irish)	5	H Miorin (Toulouse)
W D McBride (Malone)	7	P Benetton (Agen)
E R P Miller (Leicester)	8	F Pelous (Dax)

Referee: A Watson (South Africa) BBC1: 5.0pm (highlights) * captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K P McQuilkin (Bective Rangers), 17 D G Humphreys (London Irish), 18 S C McIvor (Garryowen), 19 G M Fulcher (London Irish) 20 P Flavin (Blackrock College), 21 A T H Clarke (Northampton)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 L Leflamand (Bourgoin), 17 C Lamaison (Brive), 18 P Carbonneau (Brive), 19 R Castel (Béziers), 20 J-L Jordana (Toulouse), 21 R Ibanez (Dax).

Preservation order put on British Lions

THE future of British Isles tours to the southern hemisphere has been confirmed by *the International Rugby Foot*ball Board (IRFB), whose annual meeting ended in Dublin yesterday (David Hands writes). There is, though, a strong likelihood of an end to separate tours of New Zealand and Australia.

The Lions, who are expected to announce on Tuesday a leading sponsor for the tour to South Africa *this summer*, will continue on a four-yearly rotation but both the Australasian unions seek the variety they offer more regularly than *once every 12 years. In the* days of long tours the Lions used to visit Australia — playing one or two internationals — as part of the buildup to New Zealand. Only in 1989 *did Australia host their* first full Lions tour.

Ray Williams, representing the four home unions, said: "There is a strong possibility that the Lions will play in both countries on one tour rather than splitting."

The IRFB has confirmed its wish that players should appear for only one country at *senior international* level. Although the legislation is not retrospective, and players serving the existing three-year stand-down period will not be *affected, the dual internation*al should be a thing of the past by the new millennium.

IAN STEWART

Ellis, Scotland's new hooker, the first player from Currie to be capped, practises his lineout throwing

Wales attempting to turn back powerful tide of recent history

BY GERALD DAVIES

AMID so much that is changing in rugby union, certain of *its old virtues thankfully re*main the same. The five nations' championship, so recently threatened with dismantlement, begins for Scotland and Wales in Edinburgh this afternoon and those who govern the future of the sport, and who very nearly tore the championship apart, need to take heed of the people, who *are voting with their feet.*

It is not hard to believe from the way Princes Street is *ablaze with red and white that* there are more Welsh people willing to part with their savings for the trip northwards than were willing to take the much shorter journey to Cardiff last weekend to see their team play the United States.

In contrast to the 13,500 who were at the Arms Park, it is believed that between 15,000 and 20,000 have arrived by air, road and rail in Scotland *over the past few days, and the* mobile phones have been busily engaged by those searching for the spare tickets. The attraction of rugby's traditional deep mid-winter fayre endures.

The argument is constantly *made that the standard of play* in the northern hemisphere tournament cannot hold a candle to that achieved by those countries south of the equator. Evidence of this was provided by Australia's wins over Scotland and Wales and Wales's *additional loss to* South Africa last month.

To demean the competition that begins today in the light *of these failures is hardly a* point worth making to the participants and the many *millions* who will be enthralled by the events of the next ten weeks. Take them for what they are: moments of happy, sporting celebration. Over the years in this fixture Scotland and Wales have offered examples of the best that rugby can *supply. It is hard to* recall an indifferent match.

Of late, Scotland have had *much the better record. They* have won five of the past seven fixtures and if they succeed today will emulate what they achieved between 1989 and 1991, when they won on three successive occasions. Wales have to look back to 1983 for their Murrayfield victory.

"Some of our best rugby," *Gavin Hastings wrote in his* newspaper column, "has been against the Taffs. Matches between the two sides have produced some fantastic tries." Scotland have scored 19 against 12 in the last ten games. If Hastings can recall the try *Eric Peters scored* two years ago, which Hastings had initiated in his own half, *then Wales will recall fondly* Robert Jones's try in the early minutes of the same match.

Uncertainty hangs over the quality of both teams. Before their recent stuttering victory over Italy, Scotland had recorded four consecutive defeats — against England, New Zealand, twice, and Australia — while Wales can only show *three successes in 11 outings* against national teams in the *last 12 months.*

The difference lies in that Scotland invariably pull out all the stops in the five nations' while Wales, on the other hand, rarely fulfil their potential. Having entered the last two championships with little *hope, Scotland ended up com*peting for the grand slam.

"Scotland have an enviable *ability," Terry Cobner, the* Wales director of rugby, says "to play to their maximum capacity. The performance of the team is greater than the sum of the individual parts."

Some of those parts have changed since the Italy game. In addition to the late inclusion of Graham Ellis as hooker for the injured Kevin *McKenzie, there are four other* changes. Two of these can certainly be said to strengthen the team. *Rob Wainwright* returns as No 8 and captain, while Gary Armstrong resumes at scrum half instead of Bryan Redpath. The latter adds recognisable strength to a familiar and experienced back division.

Wales keep faith with the team that was originally chosen to play the US Eagles. *Having missed that match,* Jonathan Humphreys regains his place at hooker and captain and Neil Jenkins returns to the unfamiliarity of the full back position.

Wales are perceived to hold the key to the tight phases, but *the question is whether they* will be swift enough thereafter to match Scotland for pace in *the loose, where the home* team always seem to thrive on Murrayfield's firm surface.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

SCOTLAND		WALES
R J S Shepherd (Melrose)	15	N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)
A G Stanger (Hawick)	14	I C Evans (Llanelli)
S Hastings (Watsonians)	13	A G Bateman (Richmond)
G P J Townsend (Northampton)	12	I S Gibbs (Swansea)
K M Logan (Stirling County)	11	G Thomas (Bridgend)
C M Chalmers (Melrose)	10	A C Thomas (Swansea)
G Armstrong (Newcastle)	9	R Howley (Cardiff)
D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	C D Loader (Swansea)
D G Ellis (Currie)	2	J M Humphreys (Cardiff)*
M J Stewart (Northampton)	3	D Young (Cardiff)
P Walton (Newcastle)	6	S M Williams (Neath)
G W Weir (Newcastle)	4	G O Llewellyn (Harlequins)
A I Reed (Wasps)	5	M Rowley (Pontypridd)
M I Wallace (Glasgow HK)	7	C Charvis (Swansea)
R I Wainwright (Watsonians)*	8	L S Quinnell (Richmond)

Referee: H A Smith (Ireland) BBC1: 2.55pm * captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D A Stark (Melrose), 17 B R S Eriksson (London Scottish), 18 B W Redpath (Melrose), 19 D S Munro (Glasgow High/Kelvinside), 20 T J Smith (Watsonians), 21 S Brotherstone (Melrose).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Davies (Cardiff), 17 P John (Pontypridd), 18 J C Quinnell (Richmond), 19 R G Jones (Cardiff), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea).

Leicester keen to take their lead from Stransky

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DOMESTIC arguments *this* weekend in England — where foreign imports have forced down *the number of English*born players in the Courage Clubs Championship first di*vision by a fifth since last* season — retain a cosmopolitan flavour: Joel Stransky, the *former* South Africa stand-off half, makes his home debut for Leicester, in place of Rob Liley, against Bristol today.

Stransky's arrival at Welford *Road leaves just four* English players in the regular No 10 position among the 12 first division sides. Lack of alternatives is a problem, but the concerns of the England team management are not those of Leicester as they set about regaining the lead, on points difference, from an inactive Wasps side.

Leicester also give a full league debut to Perry Freshwater, a former New Zealand Colt, who takes over from Graham Rowntree in the front row. *Rowntree has a calf* injury, but Neil Back, his England colleague, has recov*ered from a hand injury. Rory* Underwood is on the right wing for only the third time on his 228th Leicester appearance, with Leon Lloyd preferred on the left.

Should Bristol lose, they would equal their worst run of seven league defeats and deepen their plight at the foot of the table. Paul Burke and David Corkery are *on Ireland duty* and while Simon Shaw's back problem has cleared up, their *main hope must be that* Leicester will have their minds on the Heineken Cup final against Brive, the French club, next Saturday.

Leicester's probable retrieval of the lead might last just 24 hours. Harlequins, gathering momentum *once more, will* resume the front-running tomorrow if they can end Saracens' *unbeaten record at* Enfield. Paddy Johns and Richard Wallace, who repre*sented* Ireland A yesterday, are due back from Dublin to play for Saracens.

Even if they appear to be out of the title race, Bath and Andy Robinson, their new coach, who takes his place in a reshuffled pack, urgently need a win at the *Recreation* Ground tomorrow.

Northampton inflicted one *of the holders' four defeats*, but are without four players on five nations' duty and have additional problems up front, with Gavin Walsh injured and Tim Rodber and Matt Volland having late checks.

If rumour about two, rather than four sides, going down to the second division becomes fact, West Hartlepool have everything to play for today at Gloucester. However, Orrell appear to be condemned and, *in a dress-rehearsal for their* Pilkington Cup meeting next Saturday, they entertain Sale, *whose main* danger is from not having played for four weeks.

☐ Martin Bayfield, the England and British Isles lock forward, begins his comeback today from a ten-month lay-off with a chronic pelvic injury, in *a second XV game for* Northampton at home to Bath United.

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6/1	11-15 pts	12/1
10/1	16-20 pts	25/1
20/1	21-25 pts	50/1

16/1 Drawn Match

HANDICAP BETTING

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66/1	21-25 pts	8/1

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FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

TELFORD: General Accident under-21 team challenge: Denmark 5 England 2; Denmark 3 Sweden 2

TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: Third round: *A Wiranata (Indo) bt H Bengtsson (Swe)* 8-15, 15-9, 15-2; A Kusuma (Indo) bt T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) 15-13, 17-18, 15-13; J van Dijk (Holl) bt H Sorensen (Den) 15-10, 9-15, 15-6; P Rasmussen (Den) bt Luo *Yigang (China) 15-10, 15-3; I Wijaya (Indo)* bt Chen Gang (China) 15-9, 15-5; Park Sung-Woo (S Kor) bt P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) 8-15, 15-7, 15-8; B Santoso (Indo) bt K Jonassen (Den) 12-15, 15-2, 15-6; P G *Christensen (Den) bt R Sidek (Malaysia)* 18-15, 15-4. Quarter-finals: Wiranata bt Kusuma 15-5, 15-7; Rasmussen bt Van Dijk 15-8, 15-12; Park bt Wijaya 15-11, 15-6; Christensen bt Santoso 9-15, 15-10, 15-8. Women: Second round: *M Audina (Indo)* bt M Andrievskaya (Swe) 10-12, 11-7, 11-2; *Zhang Ning (China) bt K Komuro (Japan)* 11-5, 12-11; Ye Zhaoying (China) bt T Ida (Japan) 11-4, 11-7; Ra Kyung-Min (S Kor) bt J Mann (Eng) 11-2, 11-1; Lee Joo-Hyun (S Kor) bt C Reid (Can) 11-7, 11-4; C Martin (Den) bt H Mizui (Japan) 11-7, 11-8; Kim Ji-Hyun (S Kor) bt K Yonekura (Japan) 11-4, 11-3; Gong Zhichao (China) bt Y Mizui (Japan) 11-3, 11-7. Third round: Audina bt Zhang 10-12, 12-10, 11-5; Ye bt Ra 12-11, *11-8; Martin bt Lee 11-4, 11-3; Gong bt Kim* 11-5, 11-7

BASKETBALL

7-UP TROPHY: Quarter-final, first leg: Leopards 79 London Towers 111

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group E: CSKA Moscow 67 Alba Berlin 69, Maccabi Tel Aviv 87 Charleroi (Bel) 70; Stefanel Milan 73 Olympiakos 71; Villeurbanne (Fr) 82 Dyna*mo Moscow 52. Group F: Estudiantes (Sp)* 97 Ulker Spor (Tur) 63; Teamsystem Bologna 90 Limoges 76. Group H: Kinder Bologna 90 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 100

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami 102 Boston 94, Atlanta 78 Orlando 67; Houston 83 Sacramento 80; Denver 88 *Cleveland 87 (OT); Utah 95 Phoenix 91;* Portland 102 LA Lakers 98

BIATHLON

ANTERSELVA, Italy: World Cup: Men (20km): 1, L Gredler (Austria) 56min 37.9sec, 2, R Gross (Ger) 56:38.2; 3, S Rojkov (Russ) 57:03 1. World Cup standings: 1, S Fischer (Ger) 219pts; 2, O E Bjoerndalen (Nor) 206; 3, P Mouslimov (Russ) 189. Women (15km): 1, T Vodopyanova (Ukr) 48:42.2; 2, A Sikveland (Nor) 48:48.8; *3, U Disl (Ger) 49:04.5. World Cup standings*: 1, S G Petter-Memm (Ger) 214pts; 2, M Forsberg (Swe) 208, 3, Disl 166

BOWLS

LLANELLI: Welsh Indoor Masters: Quarter-finals: J Price (Wales) bt I Schuback (Aus) 7-4, 1-7, 7-6; D Gourlay (Scot) bt A Alcock (Eng) 7-0, 7-3; R Corsie (Scot) bt S *Rees (Wales) 7-2, 7-3; K Kerkow (Aus) bt A* Thomson (Eng) 7-1, 2-7, 7-6. Semi-final: Price bt Gourlay 7-6, 4-7, 7-2.

CRICKET

SUPERSPORT SERIES (first day of four): Bloemfontein: *Free State 251 (C F Craven* 64, D Jordaan 57; W Kidwell 4-54); Transvaal 6-1. Kimberley: Griqualand West 263-7 (M I Gidley 117) v Western Province. East London: Border 254-7 (P C Strydom *100, S C Pope 77 not out)* v Boland. Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 221-6 (K C Wessels 81) v Natal.

FOOTBALL

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest 1 Liverpool 2; Sheffield Wed 3 Stoke 1. Cup: Group three: *Manchester City 0 Stockport 1.*

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Oldham 1 Sunderland 2.

SPANISH CUP: Third round, first leg: Lleida 1 Hercules 0. Second leg: Deportivo La Coruña 2 Seville 0 (aet; 2-2 on agg; Deportivo win 3-1 on pens)

GOLF

INDIAN WELLS, California: *Bob Hope-Chrysler Classic*: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): 131: L Rinker 63, 68; M Calcavecchia 64, 67. 132: J D Blake 65, 67. 133: P Goydos 65, *68. 134: M O'Meara 68, 66; T Tolles 65, 69;* R Cochran 66, 68; L Mattiace 66, 68; S Gump 66, 68. 135: J Cook 66, 69. Other score: 141: A Lyle (GB) 67, 74.

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: *Manchester 3 Cardiff 11.* PREMIER LEAGUE: Medway 1 Kingston 3.

HOCKEY

LIEVEN, France: European nations' indoor cup: Finals: Pool A: Russia 1 *Germany 7, Austria 3 Spain 6; Austria 7* Russia 9; Germany 7 Spain 3. Pool B: Czech Republic 3 Scotland 3; France 5 Denmark 6.

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY (12th stage, Timbuktoo to Nema, 585km): Cars: 1, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) 6hr 50min 40sec; 2, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 22sec; 3, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 2min 16sec; 4, J *Kleinschmidt (Ger, Buggy) at 5:47*; 5, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 18:01. Overall: 1, Shinozuka 55hr 36min 37sec; 2, Fontenay at 20sec; 3, Saby at 11min 29sec. Motorcycles: 1, S Peterhansel (Fr, Yamaha) 6hr 55min 07sec; 2, D Castera (Fr, Yamaha) at 3min 50sec; 3, O Gallardo (Sp, Cagiva) at 11:22; 4, J Brucy (Fr, KTM) at 11:26; 5, P Marques (Por, KTM) at 13:04. Overall: 1, Peterhansel 52hr 08min 08sec; 2, Gallardo *at 2hr 31min 14sec; 3, Castera at 2:55:37.*

SKIING

ZWIESEL, Germany: Women's World Cup giant slalom: 1, D Compagnoni (It) 2min 8.45sec; 2, A Wachter (Austria) 2:09.61; 3, P Wiberg (Swe) 2:09.92; 4, K Roten (Switz) 2:10.25; 5, M Ertl (Ger) 2:10.31. Overall giant slalom standings (after four races): 1, Compagnoni 260pts; 2, Wachter 240; 3, S Panzanini (It) 215; 4, K Seizinger (Ger) 200; 5, U Hrovat (Slovenia) 162. Overall World Cup standings (after 16 races): 1, Wiberg 923pts; 2, Seizinger 649; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 587; 4, Compagnoni 495; 5, Wachter 445.

RUGBY UNION

A international matches

Ireland 23 France 44

Ireland A: Tries: Clarke, Wallace. Cons: Keane 2. Pens: Keane 3. France A: Tries: Artiguste, Barrat-Salles, Cazalbou, Cleda, Magne, Mola. Cons: Aucagne 4. Pens: Aucagne 2.

(at Donnybrook)

Scotland 56 Wales 11

Scotland A: Tries: Craig 3, Glasgow, Grimes, Lang, Peters. Cons: Welsh 6. Pens: Welsh 3. Wales A: Try: Cooper. Pens: Jarvis 2.

(at Goldenacre)

Under-21 international matches

Ireland 13 France 40

Ireland Under-21: Tries: Dempsey. Park. Pen: Farrell. France Under-21: Tries: Bory 2, Combes, Manas, Marlu. Cons: Barthe 3. Pens: Barthe 2. Dropped goal: Barthe.

(at Anglesea Road)

Scotland 13 Wales 24

Scotland Under-21: Try: Bull. Con: Ross. Pens: Ross 2. Wales Under-21: Tries: Shorney 2. Con: Connor. Pens: Connor 3. Dropped goal: Connor.

(at Goldenacre)

CLUB MATCH: Bonymaen 44 Neath 22.

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: International Open: Final qualifying round (England unless stated): G Dott (Scot) bt D Henn (Aus) 5-0; P McPhillips (Scot) bt C Scanlon 5-4; B Jones bt N Terry 5-1; P Wykes bt M Davis 5-3; S Pernell bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-4; A Ross bt D Reynolds 5-2; M Wilson bt A Davies (Wales) 5-2; N Walker bt K Broughton 5-0; M Rowing bt M Hallett 5-2; M Husnu (Cyp) bt T Jones 5-3; *J Prince (N Ire) bt P Williams* (Wales) 5-3; S Ali (Pak) bt W Jones (Wales) 5-4; B Morgan bt D Dale (Wales) 5-1; J Woodman bt F O'Brien (Ire) 5-3; J Burnett (Scot) bt S O'Connor (Ire) 5-2; J Johnson bt A Carter 5-3; D McLellan (Scot) bt D Mountjoy (Wales) 5-0; M Johnston-Allen bt N Gilbert 5-4; T Chappel (Wales) bt Y Merchant (India) 5-4; A Burnett (Scot) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-4.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN RESULTS

Men's singles

Third round

C Moya (Sp) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt K Braasch (Ger) 6-4, 7-6, 6-3; M Rios (Chile) bt G Schaller (Austria) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1; M Washington (US) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; F Mantilla (Sp) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3, *1-6, 7-6, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt S Bruguera* (Sp) 7-6, 7-5, 6-2; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1; M Chang (US) bt T Henman (GB) 6-1, 7-6, 6-3.

Men's doubles

Second round

K Kinnear (US) and C Woodruff (US) wo D Prinosil (Ger) and M Göllner (Ger); D Johnson (US) and F Montana (US) bt J Novak (Cz) and C Suk (Cz) 6-4, 7-6; J Grabb (US) and R Reneberg (US) bt G *Grant (US) and R Smith (Bah)* 6-4, 7-6; L Lobo (Arg) and J Sánchez (Sp) bt W Arthurs (Aus) and J Ireland (Aus) 6-2, 6-0; S Noteboom (Holl) and F Wibier (Holl) bt K Thorne (US) and J Waite (US) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; E Ferreira (SA) and P Galbraith (US) bt P McEnroe (US) and S Stolle (Aus) 7-5, 6-4; M *Damm (Cz) and A Olhovskiy (Russ)* bt N Djordjevic (Yug) and A Kitinov (Macedonia) 6-4, 6-4, N Broad (GB) and P Norval (SA) bt P Cash (Aus) and P Korda (Cz) 6-7, 7-6, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus) bt D Flach (US) and T Middleton (US) 6-0, 3-6, 6-1; P Haarhuis (Holl) and J Eltingh (Holl) bt M Ondruska (SA) and G Stafford (SA) 6-3, 6-4; *M Knowles (Bah)* and D Nestor (Can) bt S Draper (Aus) and B Steven (NZ) 7-6, 7-6

Women's singles

Third round

A Huber (Ger) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 7-5, 6-0; L Davenport (US) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-1, 6-0; S Graf (Ger) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 7-5, 6-3; A Coetzer (SA) bt M L Serna *(Sp) 6-3, 6-2; K Po (US) bt R Hiraki (Japan)* 6-2, 6-2; S Appelmans (Bel) bt K Boogert (Holl) 6-1, 3-0 ret; *M Pierce (Fr)* bt M Kochta (Ger) 6-0, 6-2; C Martínez (Sp) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-0, 6-1.

Women's doubles

First round

C Rubin (US) and B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt A Kournikova (Russ) and E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-2, 6-3. Second round: N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt J Lee (US) and H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-3; D Graham (US) and K Radford (Aus) bt A Elwood (Aus) and *N Pratt (Aus)* 6-3, 6-1; L *McNeil (US) and L Wild (US) bt K Kroupova* (Cz) and E Melicharova (Cz) 6-3, 6-1; K Habsudova (Slovakia) and R Zrubakova (Slovakia) bt K Adams (US) and M J Fernandez (US) 7-6, 6-4; Park Sung-hee *(S Kor) and Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan)* bt Y Basuki (Indo) and C Vis (Holl) 7-6, 7-6; L Davenport (US) and L Raymond (US) bt L Nemeckova (Cz) and P Langrova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; M Hingis (Switz) and N Zvereva (Bela) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) and A Montolio (Sp) 6-0, 6-1; R Dragomir (Rom) and S *Farina (It) bt A Frazier (US) and K Po (US)* 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; G Fernandez (US) and A *Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt J Capriati (US) and I* Majoli (Cro) 6-3, 7-6; N Kijimuta (Japan) and N Miyagi (Japan) bt E de Lone (US) and C Wood (GB) 6-3, 7-5; L Neiland (Lat) and H Sukova (Cz) bt E Callens (Bel) and G Helgeson-Nielsen (US) 6-2, 6-2.

Mixed doubles

First round

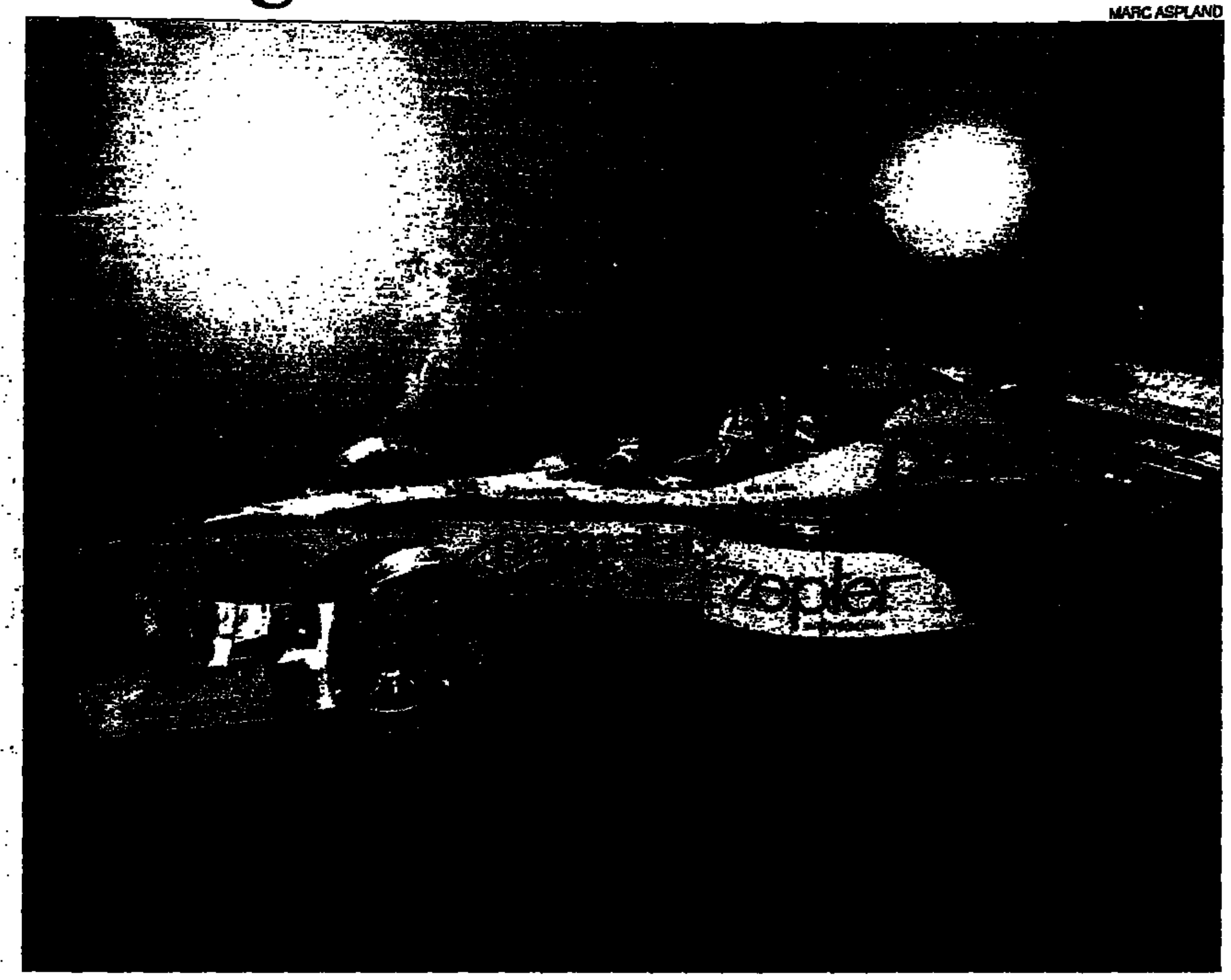
I Spirlea (Rom) and D Johnson (US) bt A Leffiere (US) and F Montana (US) 7-5, 6-0; M Oremans (Holl) and H J Davids (Holl) bt N Arendt (US) and C van Rensburg (SA) 7-5, 6-4; M Bollegraf (Holl) and R Leach (US) bt *A Fusai (Fr) and D Adams (SA)* 7-6, 7-5; L McNeil (US) and B MacPhie (US) bt K Adams (US) and L Pimek (Bel) 6-2, 6-1.

مكنز من الأصل

MOTOR RACING: WORLD CHAMPION'S KNOWLEDGE OF SILVERSTONE EXAMINED ON FIRST DAY OF TESTING

Hill shines through darkest moments

By Oliver Holt


MARC ASPLAND

Hill emerges in the darkness at Silverstone to begin his test lap of the circuit in his Arrows-Yamaha car

DAMON HILL might have been expecting a gentle introduction to his new car at Silverstone yesterday, but what he got was akin to a trial by ordeal. He has said many times that he could drive round the circuit with his eyes shut and last night he almost had to prove it.

By the time his new team had fixed a last-minute gearbox problem on his Arrows-Yamaha, loaded the car onto a truck at their factory in Leafield, Oxfordshire, and driven to the Northamptonshire circuit, dusk had fallen over the old airfield and a thick fog was closing in.

When Hill eventually settled into the cockpit and the engine was fired up by his mechanics, he had to drive by instinct and the light of the moon, negotiating two miles of puddle-strewn track on the South Circuit at speeds approaching 200mph.

He completed one lap and was wheeled back into a marquee, intending to return to the circuit to do two more tours. But by then it was so dark that his mechanics could not see and one of them damaged the car's exhaust as they tried to restart it.

The day was over but the object was achieved and Hill was still buoyant. The serious business of testing will begin at Jerez, in southern Spain, on Monday, and this first outing had at least passed without a hitch. The next phase of the Formula One motor racing world champion's career has begun.

"I suppose I could see about three or four car lengths out there," Hill said. "But I've been round here so many times I could probably do it at midnight. I have raced through the night at Le Mans before but we had spotlights there.

"But we are on our way now. I was delighted with the way it went and the fact that it happened at all just shows how professional this team is. It went perfectly really and it was good to get back in a racing car after two months away.

"Everything is in place now. We had to wait today until everything was right before we went out or there would have been no point. But now we can go to Jerez ready to get down to some proper action."

Tom Walkinshaw, the Arrows team owner and the man who has forecast that Hill could win two races this season, was also pleased with the outcome after flying into the circuit by helicopter late in the afternoon. "This kind of thing is just a shakedown to make sure the wheels are turning," he said. "It is not quite as warm as it will be in Jerez but it was essential to get it done."

Photographers and camera crews had begun gathering at the circuit early yesterday morning in anticipation of Hill making a prompt start, and by the time he eventually arrived the car park at the South Circuit, usually a deserted, windswept place, was full to capacity. William Taylor, Hill's biggest fan, who was flown out to Japan by his hero to watch him win the world championship last October, was there from dawn to dusk.

Hill spent most of the day in the warmth of a hotel in Buckingham, close to the circuit, but even when he arrived, he had to film an advertisement for ITV to promote its coverage of grand prix racing, which begins this season.

It seems to consist of him walking towards and away from a camera along a white line painted on the track. After four or five takes, the camera crew pronounced themselves satisfied. "That bit went very well, I thought," Hill smiled as he strode off towards his car.

After a three-day test in Spain next week, Hill will be plunged into an intensive series of tests at circuits around Europe in the run-up to the opening race of the season, the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on March 9. His Arrows has a new engine, a Yamaha, new Bridgestone tyres and a totally new chassis, and all the various components must be tested extensively to try to achieve reliability.

Walkinshaw is banking on the influence of Hill and the prestige at having the No 1 on one of his cars to lift the team from its performance last season, when it won only one point. He is also hoping that the switch to Bridgestone will give Arrows an advantage over the majority of teams that are still using Goodyear tyres at up to four of the 17 races.

Despite the wait yesterday, Hill is forging into the future looking for light out of the darkness.

CRICKET

Dravid chugs on to first Test century

From John Woodcock in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG (second day of five): South Africa, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 410 runs behind India

HARDLY surprisingly, after more than five inches of rain overnight, only some 60 overs could be bowled on the second day of the third Test match between South Africa and India here yesterday. In those, India took their first innings from 233 for three to 410 all out.

The pleasure of the day came primarily from Rhaul Dravid's first Test hundred. Though very slow (148 in 362 balls and 540 minutes) it was an innings of style and instinct, and never boring. He will look back on the last month as a time when, through playing on firmer pitches than those in India and England, his career took an important stride forward.

C. B. Fry once said that there was no more natural batsman in the world than the Indian, and if, at the time, he was thinking very much of his contemporary and great friend, K. S. Ranjitsinhji, they come in many other shapes and sizes. Ranji's leg glance, sleeves buttoned and billowing, must have been a beautiful thing; but so is Dravid's cover drive.

The South Africans have not got over finding a pitch with no punch in it. For two days they have looked a fairly ordinary side. The one bowler to cause India much bother yesterday was Klusener, who, in the space of three overs, had Ganguly caught at second slip and Azharuddin at mid-on, and sent Laxman to hospital with a broken finger.

What makes Klusener the effective cricketer he is are his strength and competitiveness. He has been a late developer, who took to bowling only when the captain of the country side he was playing for in Natal said: "You're the youngest so here's the ball and get on with it."

The English county cricketer he puts me in mind of, one with the same build and colouring, is Matthew Fleming, of Kent. With the benefit of the sunshine and hard grounds of South Africa Fleming, too, might have moved the odd mountain, even in a Test match.

For a big man, McMillan moves very quickly at second slip. He made a good catch look a simple one to get rid of Ganguly. This brought in Azharuddin, whose innings left much the same impression as an express train passing through a station. He hit four reckless, brilliant boundaries before ballooning an attempted hook to mid-on. He showed no respect whatever for the bowling, something that even geniuses normally need to do.

The fastest balls of the match so far have probably been bowled by Klusener, when he has really bent his back. Donald wanted for luck and Pollock is not at the moment the cricketer he was against England a year ago. Adams, too, is up against better players of spin bowling in the Indians than the Englishmen were. If he troubles the Australians more when they come here next month, it could be for their not having played against him before.

What the Indians have achieved these past two days should stand them in good stead when they go to West Indies, which is their next stop but one. They came into this Test match having had only one partnership of more than 25 in the first two Tests. But now, even after Laxman's misfortune, there was one of 61 between Dravid and Kumble and another of 76 between Dravid and Srinath, and they topped 400 with Tendulkar and Azharuddin making only 53 of them — hardly believable really.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First Innings

V S Rathore c Richardson b Adams	13
†N R Mongia b Donald	21
R S Dravid c Pollock b Cronje	148
*S R Tendulkar c McMillan b Cronje	35
S C Ganguly c McMillan b Klusener	73
M Azharuddin c Hudson b Klusener	18
V V S Laxman retired hurt	0
A Kumble c Richardson b Klusener	29
J Srinath c Hudson b Donald	41
D Ganesh c Cullinan b Donald	1
B K V Prasad not out	2
Extras (lb 15, w 5, nb 9)	29
Total	410

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-46, 3-100, 4-245, 5-266, 6-327, 7-403, 8-408, 9-410

BOWLING: Donald 32.1-9-88-3, Pollock 30-11-55-0, McMillan 21.5-4-50-0, Klusener 27-6-75-3, Adams 24-6-88-1, Cronje 16.3-5-39-2

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A C Hudson not out	0
G Kirsten not out	0
Total (no wkt)	0

A M Bacher, D J Cullinan, *W J Cronje, B M McMillan, S M Pollock, †D J Richardson, L Klusener, A A Donald and P R Adams to bat

BOWLING: Srinath 0.2-0-0-0.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and P Willey (England)

BASKETBALL: THREE-POINT SPECIALIST WHITE MAY HOLD KEY TO SUCCESS FOR LEOPARDS IN NATIONAL CUP FINAL

Mims aiming to make the most of his lucky break

By Nicholas Harling

White: match-winner

OF ALL the happy coincidences in sport, few can match that which has made this season the most fulfilling yet for Billy Mims. Just by happening to be in the right place at the right time when he travelled through Florida last summer, the Leopards coach may have determined the destiny of the first of this season's honours.

Should the London club win the Classic Cola National Cup final tomorrow, and be helped towards victory over Sheffield Sharks by a healthy contribution from John White, then Mims will forever bless the moment he stopped off at a Krispy Kream donought shop in Port Saint Lucie.

Mims, on a recruiting drive, picked up a local newspaper and turned to the sports pages "to read that in the USBL [the United States Basketball League], that very night the Treasure Coast Tropics were in town to play Jacksonville Baracudas." On taking in the game, as any conscientious coach would, Mims was immediately struck by the shooting prowess of White, whose 35 points included six three-pointers from seven attempts.

Here was a player, Mims felt, who should have been competing alongside the elite in the National Basketball Association. "He belongs in the NBA. Some players are good enough to be in the NBA. He's one of them, but you have to be in the right place at the right time. I was; John, unluckily for him, wasn't.

"John is 30 now and it will be hard for him to get into the NBA but I would stake my house on the fact that plenty of the guys in the NBA are not as good as John. He's a better shooter, a better guard."

White remains philosophical about his failure to achieve his ambition. "I had a good camp once with Indiana Pacers," he said. "I'm not saying that I should have made it but I came close. I was upset at the time, but I don't harp on about it. I don't feel bitter about it."

White did not take up basketball seriously until his high school days at Fairdale in Louisville, Kentucky. He went on to study communications at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he failed to find harmony on court. "The head coach blackballed me, saying that I had 'an unbelievably bad attitude'."

For all that, it was at Hattiesburg that White developed a talent for long-range markmanship. "I like to take the big shots," he said. "If there's a turning point in a game that's one of my strong points. I like to put daggers in people's hearts."

The dagger was indeed struck deep into the Sharks three weeks ago when, in the same Sheffield arena to which he returns tomorrow, White collected 33 points for Leopards in a Budweiser League fixture. The winners by nine points then, the Leopards may succeed again should White respond positively to finding himself even more of a marked man.

Just as significant, perhaps, will be the Leopards' reaction to a traumatic 32-point home defeat at the hands of London Towers on Thursday in the 7-Up Trophy.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Chelsea v Derby
(2) Coventry v Manchester Utd
(3) Leicester v Wimbledon
(4) Liverpool v Aston Villa
(5) Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wed
(6) Southampton v Newcastle
(7) Sunderland v Blackburn

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	23	12	7	4	38	20	43
Man Utd	22	11	8	3	44	26	41
Arsenal	22	11	7	4	39	21	40
Newcastle	22	11	5	6	40	24	38
Wimbledon	20	11	5	4	34	24	38
Aston Villa	22	10	6	6	31	21	36
Chelsea	22	9	8	5	33	31	35
Sheff Wed	21	7	10	4	23	23	31
Everton	22	7	7	8	30	31	28
Tottenham	21	8	4	9	23	28	28
Sunderland	22	7	6	9	22	30	27
Leeds	22	7	4	11	19	27	25
Derby	21	5	9	7	21	28	24
Blackburn	21	5	8	8	23	22	23
Coventry	22	5	8	9	22	31	23
Leicester	21	6	5	10	20	30	23
West Ham	21	5	7	9	18	26	22
Notm Forest	22	4	8	10	21	36	20
Southampton	21	5	4	12	29	37	19
† Middlesbro	22	4	6	12	25	41	15

† denotes three points deducted

Nationwide League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Ipswich
(9) Birmingham v Reading
(10) Bolton v Wolverhampton
(11) Charlton v Stoke
(12) Crystal Palace v Portsmouth
(13) Huddersfield v Manchester City
(14) Norwich v Grimsby
(15) Oxford Utd v Tranmere
(16) Sheffield Utd v Southend
(17) Swindon v Bradford
(18) West Bromwich v Oldham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	28	15	10	3	58	37	55
Barnsley	26	13	8	5	45	30	47
Sheffield Utd	26	13	7	6	44	28	46
Wolverhmptn	26	12	7	7	36	23	43
C Palace	26	10	10	6	50	28	40
QPR	27	11	7	9	38	35	40
Stoke	25	11	7	7	33	33	40
Tranmere	27	11	6	10	36	34	39
Norwich	26	11	6	9	35	36	39
Port Vale	27	9	11	7	30	27	38
Oxford Utd	27	10	7	10	37	31	37
Huddersfield	27	9	8	10	32	35	35
Charlton	27	10	5	12	29	36	35
Ipswich	27	8	10	9	34	38	34
West Brom	27	7	12	8	43	44	33
Swindon	26	10	3	13	36	34	33
Portsmouth	28	9	6	13	30	35	33
Birmingham	24	8	9	7	24	23	33
Reading	27	7	9	11	30	39	30
Oldham	25	6	9	10	28	31	27
Man City	26	8	3	15	28	41	27
Bradford	28	6	8	14	26	44	26
Southend	26	5	10	11	25	46	25
Grimsby	25	5	8	12	27	45	23

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Gravesend and Northfleet; Baldock v Burton; Cambridge City v Sudbury Tn; King's Lynn v Ashford; Sittingbourne v Nuneaton. Midland division: Dudley Town v Bilston; Evesham v Solihull Boro. Hinckley Town v Corby; Paget R v VS Rugby; RC Warwick v Ilkeston; Redditch v Sutton Coldfield Town; Rothwell v Shepshed D. Stourbridge v Stafford. Southern division: Cirencester Town v Fleet T. Clevedon v Witney; Dartford v Newport (IoW); Fisher London v Forest Green. Margate v Weston-super-Mare. Tonbridge Angels v Erith and Belvedere; Yate v Trowbridge.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Winsford; Barrow v Accrington Stanley; Frickley v Buxton; Leek v Knowsley; Marine v Witton. First division: Droylsden v Netherfield; Farsley Celtic v Curzon Ashton; Gretna v Eastwood Town; Leigh v Congleton; Matlock Town v Great Harwood. Radcliffe v Flixton; Stocksbridge PS v Warrington; Whitley Bay v Lincoln United. Worksop v Atherton LR.

Second division

(19) Brentford v Bristol City
(20) Bristol Rovers v York
(21) Blackpool v Crewe
(22) Luton v Wrexham
(23) Notts County v Gillingham
(24) Peterborough v Plymouth
(25) Preston v Watford
(26) Rotherham v Wycombe
(27) Shrewsbury v Chesterfield
(28) Stockport v Millwall
(29) Walsall v Bournemouth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	26	14	8	4	45	27	50
Luton	24	14	4	6	43	26	46
Millwall	26	12	8	6	36	28	44
Bristol City	26	12	7	7	45	29	43
* Bury	24	11	9	4	36	23	42
Stockport	25	11	8	6	32	27	41
Chesterfield	24	12	5	7	24	18	41
* Burnley	26	12	4	10	39	30	40
Crewe	25	13	1	11	34	28	40
Wrexham	24	10	9	5	34	30	39
Watford	24	9	12	3	25	19	39
Shrewsbury	27	8	8	11	35	43	32
Blackpool	25	7	10	8	26	28	31
Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	24	32	31
Plymouth	26	7	9	10	30	38	30
Walsall	24	8	6	10	26	28	30
Bristol Rov	26	7	8	11	26	30	29
Preston	26	8	5	13	26	32	29
York	25	8	5	12	26	38	29
Peterborough	25	6	9	10	37	43	27
Gillingham	26	7	6	13	25	36	27
Wycombe	25	6	5	14	22	38	23
Notts County	25	5	8	12	18	29	23
Rotherham	25	3	9	13	21	37	18

* not including last night's match

Third division

(30) Colchester v Carlisle
(31) Darlington v Cambridge Utd
(32) Exeter v Wigan
(33) Hartlepool v Doncaster
(34) Lincoln v Brighton
(35) Mansfield v Hull
(36) Northampton v Chester
(37) Rochdale v Cardiff
(38) Scarborough v Barnet
(39) Scunthorpe v Hereford
(—) Swansea v Leyton Orient
(—) Torquay v Fulham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	27	17	5	5	47	20	56
Carlisle	26	15	7	4	40	24	52
Camb Utd	26	14	5	7	37	31	47
Wigan	24	13	5	6	43	28	44
Swansea	27	12	6	9	32	28	42
Northampton	27	11	7	9	40	29	40
Colchester	27	8	14	5	38	31	38
Chester	25	10	8	7	27	25	38
Scarborough	26	9	10	7	34	32	37
Cardiff	26	11	4	11	29	33	37
Torquay	27	11	4	12	28	30	37
Hull	27	8	13	6	27	29	37
L Orient	26	9	8	9	24	23	35
Scunthorpe	25	10	4	11	36	37	34
Lincoln	26	9	7	10	34	39	34
Hartlepool	27	9	6	12	31	33	33
Barnet	26	8	9	9	25	25	33
Mansfield	26	7	11	8	27	27	32
Rochdale	24	7	9	8	29	29	30
Exeter	26	8	6	12	26	35	30
Doncaster	25	7	4	14	26	38	25
Darlington	26	6	5	15	34	51	23
Hereford	27	6	5	16	26	39	23
† Brighton	27	4	6	17	24	48	16

† denotes two points deducted

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Hitchin, Bishop's Stortford v Oxford City; Purfleet v Carshalton; Staines v Bromley; Sutton United v Hendon. First division: Billericay v Hampton; Bognor Regis v Aldershot Town; Canvey Island v Maidenhead United; Chesham v Walton and Hersham; Leyton Pennant v Croydon; Molesey v Worthing; Thame v Basingstoke; Tooting and Mitcham v Marlow; Uxbridge v Barton Rovers; Whyteleafe v Abingdon Town. Second division: Bedford T v Wivenhoe; Dorking v Banstead; Edgware v H Hempstead; Egham v Leatherhead; Leighton Town v Windsor and Eton; Tilbury v Horsham; Ware v Hungerford; Wembley v Chalfont St Peter; Witham v Cheshunt. Third division: Braintree v Lewes; Clapton v Wingate and Finchley; Epsom and Ewell v Hornchurch; Flackwell Heath v Hertford; Harlow v East Thurrock; Kingsbury v Southall.

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v Hibernian
(41) Hearts v Dundee Utd
(42) Kilmarnock v Dunfermline
(43) Motherwell v Rangers
(44) Raith v Aberdeen

First division

(45) Airdrie v St Mirren
(46) Dundee v Clydebank
(47) East Fife v Falkirk
(48) Greenock Morton v Partick
(49) Stirling v St Johnstone

Second division

(—) Brechin v Berwick
(—) Dumbarton v Ayr
(—) Livingston v Clyde
(—) Stenhousemuir v Hamilton
(—) Stranraer v Queen of South

Third division

(—) Albion v Montrose
(—) Alloa v Queen's Park
(—) East Stirling v Ross County
(—) Forfar v Cowdenbeath
(—) Inverness CT v Arbroath

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth round: Arlesey Town v Herne Bay; Barking v Woodbridge Town; Bemerton Heath v Collier Row and Romford; Concord Rangers v Whitstable Town; Histon v Northwood; Mangotsfield United v Taunton; Mossley v Cogenhoe United; Southend Manor v Wisbech; Stamford v N Ferriby; Thatcham Town v Tiverton Tn; Reading Town v Banstead Ath.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Barry (2.30). Carmarthen Town v Llansantffraid; Connah's Quay v Ton Pentre; Conwy v Caersws; Cwmbran v Porthmadog (2.30); Flint Town v Briton Ferry; Inter Cable-Tel v Aberystwyth, Rhyl v Welshpool

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v East Ham, Burnham Ramblers v Sawbridgeworth; Concord Rangers v Great Wakering; Ilford v Ford United; Eton Manor v Stansted; Hullbridge Sports v Brentwood; Saffron Walden v Basildon U.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Cove; Deveronvale v Fraserburgh; Nairn County v Keith; Peterhead v Fort William.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round: Ashton United v Moor Green; Bath v Stevenage; Blyth Spartans v Grantham; Bromsgrove v Merthyr; Cheltenham v Dulwich; Colwyn Bay v Lancaster; Dover v Dagenham and Red; Emley v Boston, Enfield v Boreham Wood; Gainsborough v Bradford Park Avenue, Gateshead v Runcorn; Gresley v Altrincham; Guiseley v Telford; Hyde v Bedworth United; Kettering v Chelmsford; Kidderminster v Macclesfield; Morecambe v Chorley; Northwich v Hednesford; Rushden and Diamonds v Farnborough; Slough v Dorchester; Southport v Halesowen; Spennymoor v Bishop Auckland; St Albans v Weymouth; St Leonards Stamcroft v Newport AFC; Stalybridge v Halifax; Worcester City v Heybridge; Workington v Bamber Bridge; Yeading v Gloucester; Yeovil v Hayes.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Brook House v Hanwell; Beaconsfield SYCOB v Cockfosters; Haringey v Croydon; St Margaretsbury v Brimsdown res; Waltham Abbey v Islington St Marys; Woodford v Harefield

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Walton Casuals; Chipstead v Bedfont; Cranleigh v Hartley Wintney. Merstham v Cove; Netherne v Farnham, Raynes Park Vale v Corinthian-Casuals; Reading Town v Westfield; Sandhurst v Viking Sports. Cup: Third round: Feltham v Ash; Cobham v Godalming and Guildford

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hoddesdon v Potters Bar; Langford v Harpenden; Milton Keynes v Biggleswade; Royston v Letchworth, Toddington v Brache Sparta; Welwyn Garden v London Colney

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Torrington v Bridgwater; Barnstaple v Bridport; Bristol Manor Farm v Elmore; Chard v Paulton R; Chippenham v Bideford; Westbury v Brislington.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Woodbridge Town; Diss v Halstead; Felixstowe P and T v Wisbech; Great Yarmouth v Bury Town; March v Harwich and Parkeston; Newmarket v Lowestoft; Stowmarket v Gorleston; Tiptree v Fakenham; Warboys v Sudbury Res.

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Ignatians v Latymer OB; Old Kingsburians Res v Old Vaughanians; Old Meadonians v Clapham OX

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Lymington; BAT v Bournemouth; Christchurch v Petersfield. Downton v Brockenhurst; East Cowes v Cowes Sports, Gosport v Romsey; Ryde Sports v Wimborne Town; Whitchurch v Aerostructures

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks v Whitehawk, Horsham YMCA v Southwick; Langney Sports v Pagham; Oakwood v Burgess Hill, Portfield v Eastbourne Town; Three Bridges v Ringmer, Wick v Hailsham. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Peacehaven/Telscombe v East Preston

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Sheppey; Chatham v Woolwich; Corinthian v Faversham; Cray v Slade Green; Folkestone Invicta v Ramsgate, Hythe v Deal; Thamesmead v Crockenhill.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Brackley v Swindon Supermarine; Didcot v Almondsbury; Fairford v Burnham, Kintbury v Highworth; Shortwood v Carterton, Wantage v North Leigh.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Newport Pagnell; Cogenhoe v Mirrlees Blackstone, Ford Sports v Bourne; Northampton Spencer v Eynesbury; St Neots v Potton. Spalding v Desborough; Stamford v Kempston; S and L Corby v Holbeach; Stotfold v Long Buckby. Wootton v Wellingborough.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Highgate; Coleshill v Bilston Community College, Handrahan Timbers v David Lloyd. Knowle v Coventry Sphinx, Massey Ferguson v West Midland Fire Service, Wellesbourne v Southam; Worcester Athletico v Bolehall S. President's Cup: Third round: GPT (Coventry) v Dudley Sports

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Gornal Res; Cradley Town v Ludlow T; Darlaston v Stafford T. Lye Town v Wednesfield, Tividale v Brierley Hill T, Walsall Wood v Westfields.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division. Atherton Collieries v Holker Old Boys: Bootle v Trafford, Chadderton v Salford: Eastwood H v Darwen; Glossop North End v Newcastle Town. Maine Road v Blackpool Rovers; Nantwich Town v Kidsgrove; Penrith v Burscough; Rossendale v Prescot Cables, Vauxhall GM v St Helens

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenhall v Halesowen H; Bloxwich Town v Rocester; Knypersley V v Chasetown; Rushall O v Hinckley Athletic. Sandwell v Pershore T. Shifnal T v Boldmere St M. Stratford T v Pelsall V; W Mid Police v Stapenhill. Willenhall v Oldbury U

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Liversedge; Ashfield v Arnold; Belper Town v Hatfield Main. Brigg Town v Ossett Town: Hucknall Town v Thackley; Maltby MW v Hallam. Ossett Albion v Denaby; Pontefract Cols v Pickering, Selby v Glasshoughton Welfare

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v RTM Newcastle, Billingham v Whitby; Consett v Durham, Dunston Federation v West Auckland. Easington v Chester-le-Street; Morpeth v Guisborough, Shildon v Seaham Red Star. South Shields v Tow Law; Stockton v Crook, Whickham v Murton

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine v Glentoran. Crusaders v Ards; Linfield v Glenavon. Portadown v Cliftonville. First division: Bangor v Ballyclare. Carrick v Larne, Distillery v Omagh, Newry v Ballymena.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v St Patrick's Ath (7.30); Sligo v Dundalk (7.30)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Fulham (11.0); Gillingham v Leyton Orient (10.45); Ipswich v Cambridge Utd (11.0), Millwall v Queens Park Rangers (11.0). Southend v Chelsea (11.0). Tottenham v Portsmouth (11.0). West Ham v Norwich (11.0). Postponed: Charlton v Watford. Second division: Bournemouth v Crystal Palace (11.0). Brentford v Wycombe (11.0): Brighton v Barnet (11.0). Bristol City v Wimbledon (11.0): Bristol Rovers v Swindon (11.0). Colchester v Tottenham (11.0). Reading v Oxford Utd (11.0). Southampton v Luton (11.0)

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v Norsemen; NatWest Bank v Old Esthameians. Old Actonians v Old Parmiterians. South Bank v Polytechnic

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians v Cholmeleians. Foresters v Etonians. Reptonians v Lancing. Arthur Dunn Cup: Second round: Brentwoods v Wykehamists.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Old Finchleians. Hale End v Parkfield: Southgate County v St Mary's College

SCHOOLS MATCHES: ESFA Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: St Margaret's Merseyside v Bridgewater HS, Cheshire (10.30). English Eagles Trophy: North Kent v Croydon (10.0). English ESFA Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Wortreton, Hull v Aston CS, Sheffield (10.30)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Southgate v Teddington (Broomfield School, 2.0). First division: Oxford University v Oxford Hawks (St Edward's School, 11.30); St Albans v Indian Gymkhana (Clarence Park, 1.0): Trojans v Bluebarts (Stoneham Lane, 1.30)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Old Kingstonians; Chichester v Hampstead/Westminster, High Wycombe v Winchester. Old Whitgiftians v Fareham. Ramgarhia v Ashford; Spencer v Gore Court; Tunbridge Wells v Maidenhead; Wimbledon v Bournemouth; Woking v Beckenham. Wokingham v Richmond

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester v Ramgarhia. Formby v Swalwell, Norton v Southport. Sheffield Bankers v Harrogate, Springfields v Neston. Timperley v Ben Rhydding

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Khalsa v Bloxwich; Loughborough Students v Coventry and North Warwicks. North Notts v Blossomfield, Nottingham v Hampton-in-Arden. Olton and West Warwicks v Harborne.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Dereham; Cambridge City v Sudbury. Cambridge University v Colchester. Ipswich v Redbridge and Ilford; Peterborough Town v Chelmsford. Premier division B: Bedford Town v Ipswich and East Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds v Luton Town. Clacton v Westcliff; Norwich City v Huntingdon. Romford v Old Southendian.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division: Bristol University v Bath Buccaneers, Clevedon v Plymouth; Robinsons v Swansea; Weston-super-Mare v Llan and Llan. Whitchurch v Taunton Vale

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Slough v Balsam Leicester; Hightown v Sutton Coldfield; Ipswich v Olton; Chelmsford v Slough; Balsam Leicester v Hightown; Sutton Coldfield v Ipswich, Olton v Chelmsford. First division: Doncaster v Canterbury; Woking v Sheffield: Bracknell v Ealing; Wimbledon v Doncaster. Canterbury v Woking, Sheffield v Bracknell, Ealing v Wimbledon. Second division: Exmouth v Portishead Firebrands, Liverpool v St Albans; St Austell v Aldridge; Bradford Swithenbank v Exmouth. Portishead Firebrands v Liverpool, St Albans v St Austell, Aldridge v Bradford Swithenbank.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Gloucester City v Hampton-in-Arden; Harleston Magpies v Old Loughtonians.

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay v Newtown; Haverfordwest v Penarth. Cardiff Athletic v Pontypridd: Cardiff Institute v Swansea.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Second round

Clayton v Saddleworth
Oulton v West Bowling
Ovenden v Barrow Island
Redhill v Wigan Rose Bridge
Wigan St Patricks v Blackbrook (2.30)
York Acorn v Mayfield

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Lock Lane (2.30); Egremont v Woolston; Heworth v Oldham St Annes; Leigh Miners v West Hull (2.30). First division: Leigh East v East Leeds, Moldgreen v Eastmoor. Thornhill v Wigan St Judes. Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Shaw Cross; Hull Dockers v Featherstone Amateur; Mitford v New Earswick. Normanton v Eccles

CLUB MATCH: Dewsbury v Castleford

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Five nations' championship

Ireland v France
(at Lansdowne Road)
Scotland v Wales
(at Murrayfield)

Tour match

Cambridge University v Otago

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Gloucester v West Hartlepool
Leicester v Bristol
Orrell v Sale
Wasps v London Irish P

Second division

Bedford v Rugby
Coventry v Waterloo
London Scottish v Nottingham
Moseley v Blackheath
Newcastle v Richmond P
Rotherham v Wakefield (2.15)

Third division

Clifton v Morley
Fylde v Redruth (2.30)
Havant v Lydney (2.30)
Leeds v Otley
London Welsh v Liverpool St Helens (2.15)
Reading v Harrogate (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Exeter (2.30)
Wharfedale v Walsall (2.15)

Fourth division north

Birmingham/Solihull v Hereford (2.30)
Kendal v Winnington Park (2.30)
Lichfield v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30)
Manchester v Nuneaton (2.30)
Stoke-on-Trent v Stourbridge (2.30)
Worcester v Sheffield (2.30)

Fourth division south

Askeans v Plymouth (2.30)
Barking v North Walsham (2.30)
Berry Hill v Cheltenham (2.30)
Camberley v Newbury (2.15)
Charlton Park v Henley (2.15)

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Cornwall v Hertfordshire (at Redruth, 2.15), Cumbria v Yorkshire (at Aspatria, 2.0); Somerset v Hampshire (at Bridgwater, 2.30). North: Pool two: Warwickshire v Northumberland (at Rugby, 2.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Grangemouth v Llandybie (11.0); Kirkcaldy v Aberdeen GSFP (11.0): Madras College FP v Gordonians (11.0): Metropolitan Police v Maidenhead (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Hemel and Watford v Derby (7.30): Worthing v Thames Valley (8.0)

BOXING: British middleweight championship: Neville Brown (Burton, holder) v Willie Quinn (Edinburgh) (at Greenbank Leisure Centre, Swadlincote)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham v Newcastle v (7.0), Sheffield v Cardiff (7.0). Basingstoke v Ayr (6.30)

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division. Cheadle v Boardman and Eccles. Mellor v Heaton Mersey: Cheadle Hulme v Poynton; Moorthorpe v Old Waconians, Stockport v Timperley

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (at Irthlingborough)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (in Swansea).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men. First division: Leeds v Malory Lewisham (1.0): Crofton Sportswearhouse v Polonia Ealing (3.0): City of Stoke v Sportsel Whitefield (2.30): Tooting Aquila v Warwick Riga (6.30); Wessex v Reebok Liverpool City (6.30). National women's Cup: Quarter-final: London Malory v Loughborough (12.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal v Everton (4.0)
Nottingham Forest v Tottenham

Nationwide League
First division

Port Vale v Queens Park Rangers (2.10)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First round: Raunds T v Welling; Wokingham v Woking (2.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP: Group three: Stoke v Manchester City (1.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Ebbw Vale.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Shamrock (3.15); Cork v Derry (12.0); UCD v Home Farm (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Ilkeston v Southampton (at New Manor Ground, 2.0). Postponed: Liverpool v Everton

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Notts County v Blyth Spartans; Wolverhampton v Stourport. Postponed: Bradford v Sheffield Wednesday; Huddersfield v Garswood St Helens. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Town and County; Whitehawk v Oxford Res; Wimbledon v Langford. Postponed: Berkhamsted v Three Bridges; Leyton Orient v Ipswich.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fourth round: Arsenal v Barry; Chelmsford v Huddersfield; Croydon v Liverpool; Highfield v Berkhamsted; Preston v Denham Utd; Doncaster v Sheffield Wednesday; Ipswich v Middlesbrough; Tottenham v Collier Row; Tranmere v Wembley.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club matches

Featherstone v Halifax (3.30)
Leeds v Sheffield (3.0)
Oldham v Swinton (3.0)
Rochdale v Central Lancs (3.0)
Warrington v Salford (3.0)
Workington v Barrow (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v Northampton (3.0)
Saracens v Harlequins (3.0)

SRU TENNENTS 1556 CUP: Third round: Ayr v Ross High, Berwick v Gordonians, Biggar v Gala; Corstorphine v Howe of Fife; Dundee HSFP v Hillhead/Jordanhill; Duns v Glasgow Academicals; Edinburgh University v East Kilbride; Glasgow High/Kelvinside v Helensburgh; Glenrothes v Langholm; Grangemouth v Glasgow Southern; Haddington v Kilmarnock; Hamilton Academicals v Carnoustie HSFP; Hawick Trades v Garnock; Kelso v Livingston; Kirkcaldy v Dunfermline (1.30); Linlithgow v Hawick Linden; Lochaber v Musselburgh; Morgan Academy FP v West of Scotland: Peebles v Preston Lodge; Selkirk v Stewartry; St Boswells v Bute; Stewart's Melville FP v Aberdeenshire; Strathendrick v Edinburgh Academicals. Trinity Academicals v Aberdeen GSFP.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Old Loughtonians (at Morris Ground, 2.30); Canterbury v Surbiton (at Polo Farm, 1.0); East Grinstead v Reading (at Saint Hill, 2.0); Havant v Teddington (at Havant College, 2.15); Hounslow v Barford Tigers (at Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, 1.30). Southgate v Guildford (at Broomfield School, 2.0). First division: Beeston v Harleston Magpies (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Blueharts v Gloucester City (at Hitchin Boys' School, 2.0); Bournville v Firebrands (at King Edward's Girls' School, 2.30); Bromley v Edgbaston (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Brooklands v Doncaster (at Georges Road, Sale, 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Crostyx (at Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 1.30). Hull v Sheffield (at Hull University, 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v Warrington (at Thornbury Avenue, Isleworth, Middlesex, 2.30), Isca v Trojans (at Exeter School, 1.30); Lewes v Stourport (at Southdown Club, 1.30). Oxford Hawks v St Albans (at Banbury Road, 12.30).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Olton v Sutton Coldfield; Balsam Leicester v Chelmsford; Slough v Olton; Sutton Coldfield v Balsam Leicester. Chelmsford v Ipswich; Hightown v Slough. First division: Ealing v Sheffield, Canterbury v Wimbledon; Bracknell v Woking. Doncaster v Ealing; Sheffield v Canterbury; Wimbledon v Bracknell; Woking v Doncaster. Second division: Aldridge v St Albans. Portishead Firebrands v Bradford Swithenbank; St Austell v Liverpool; Exmouth v Aldridge; St Albans v Portishead Firebrands, Bradford Swithenbank v St Austell; Liverpool v Exmouth.

WELSH WOMEN'S CUP: Second round: Bangor v Cardiff Athletic; Buckley v St Clears; Colwyn Bay v Pontypridd; Newtown v BSC; Penarth v Chepstow; Swansea v Haverfordwest; Cardiff Institute v Dowlais, Whitchurch v Carmarthen.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bowdon v Ormskirk; Cambridge University v Welwyn Garden City.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Scottish indoor championships (at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow)

BASKETBALL: Classic Cola National Cup: Final: Leopards v Sheffield (at Sheffield Arena, 7.0). Budweiser League: Chester v Newcastle (6.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v Ayr (6.0); Cardiff v Nottingham (6.0)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (at Irthlingborough).

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (at Swansea)

VOLLEYBALL: National women's Cup: Quarter-final: Reebok Liverpool City v Britannia Music City (1.30)

هكذا من الأصل

RACING: TATE'S TALENTED PERFORMER TO REWARD BACKERS

Ask Tom can provide right answer for Kempton chase

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

SINCE the mighty Desert Orchid won the first running of the Victor Chandler Chase, at 6-4, back in the 1989, the two-mile handicap has been a bonus for punters rather than the race's sponsor — and today's renewal can maintain the tradition.

In eight runnings, only two horses outside the first three in the betting have obliged and, while that trend is no reason for excluding outsiders from calculations, there are good reasons for opposing the long shots again today, when half the field is out of the handicap.

Exposing the chinks in a horse's armour is not always popular with owners, but it is important for punters in shortlisting possible winners. The much-hyped Callisoe Bay is not a natural jumper of fences, and my guess is he never will be. The best of Kibreet's form last season would give him a chance, but he failed to justify odds-on favouritism in a three-runner race behind Dancing Paddy at Cheltenham last time. The ten-year-old looks in the grip of the handicapper and is unlikely to find the necessary improvement at his age.

Dancing Paddy benefited from the small field last time and jumped better than usual. He can get rather low at some fences and is likely to be found out in this more competitive event. Big Matt, the winner of this race last year when it was staged at its usual Ascot venue, has been disappointing this season and is definitely best at the Berkshire course.

The front-running Clay County, without a race for three months, is better giving weight away to inferior rivals and may find this jump in class too much. This leaves the David Nicholson-trained pair, Viking Flagship and Storm Alert, and Ask Tom.

Interestingly, the Nicholson runners yesterday ran as if in need of their outings after the freeze. Leaving that aside, I suspect the admirable Viking Flagship would appreciate more cut and a little further, and may need this race after a six-week absence.

Storm Alert, an Ascot specialist, beat Ask Tom half a length at his favourite track four weeks ago and is only 1lb worse off, but I will be surprised if he can confirm the form here. Russ Garritty made the error of being slowly away on Ask Tom at Ascot and he is likely to be much nearer the pace today.

"We have not missed a day's work with him during the freeze. I have a lot of good grass gallops and I am happy with him," Tom Tate, his trainer, said yesterday. The eight-year-old, whose only defeat over fences last season came in the Arkle when he was still suffering the effects of a virus, has "great ability" and is being aimed at the Queen Mother Champion Chase. With bags of improvement to come, **Ask Tom** looks a solid bet.

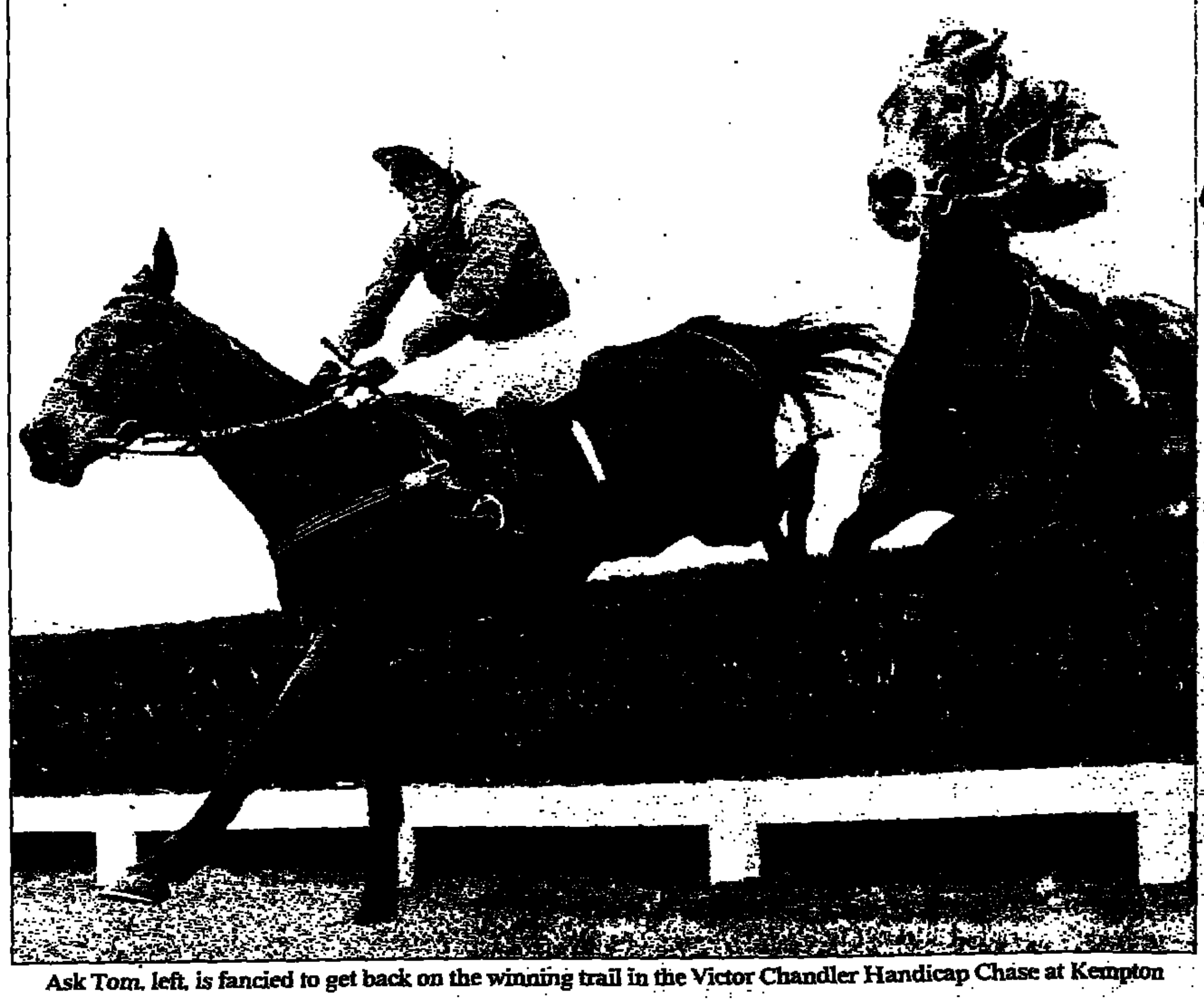
With a question mark against the fitness of so many runners, backers will need to exercise caution. Away from the gaze of the television cameras, it could pay to take on Ready Money Creek at Kempton (1.10) with **Sea Victor**, whose victory in a fast-run race at Doncaster was boosted by the subsequent success of Endowment at Carlisle.

Those with good memories will recall **Star Selection** finishing sixth in the 1994 2,000 Guineas. Recently, he won a maiden hurdle at Hereford with minimal fuss and can follow up at Catterick (3.00) on his handicap debut.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ASK TOM
(3.10 Kempton Park)
Next best: Make A Stand
(2.40 Kempton Park)

MARTIN LYNCH



Ask Tom, left, is fancied to get back on the winning trail in the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Kempton

Unguided Missile can strike target

HAYDOCK PARK
BBC1

1.15: Bimsey is selected more in hope than confidence. Reg Akehurst's representative must take advantage of a favourable weight and his preferred ground to justify Champion Hurdle hopes. The seven-year-old made a race of it with Large Action (gave 8lb) last time when Pridwell finished well adrift after losing ground at the start. Pridwell is the form pick but is a notoriously difficult ride.

Dato Star appeared one-paced on a fast surface at Newcastle. Master Tribe, inclined to pull for his head, benefited from the strong pace in The Ladbroke last week.

1.45: Unguided Missile is given a confident vote. The nine-year-old has improved with every outing: his failure to give 25lb to an on-song Go Ballistic last time was a noteworthy effort. He has won on his seasonal debut in the last three seasons, so the freeze should not have compromised him. Jodami was rated 9lb higher when successful at Kelso 13 months ago but this admirable chaser has become vulnerable to younger opponents. With Scotton Banks disappointing this term, Nahthen Lad looks the biggest danger, although he may require a greater stamina test.

2.15: Ocean Hawk will be a warm order after his tenacious Ascot victory. The five-year-old had six lengths in hand of Pleasure Shared that day and meets that rival on identical terms here. However, because each of his four victories have come on right-handed tracks, **Pleasure Shared** is preferred on this occasion. Top Spin, further behind the principals at Ascot, is better off here but his winning record is poor.

JULIAN MUSCAT

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

KEMPTON PARK
CHANNEL 4

2.10: Rosencrantz enters calculations, having won his first two starts before just being pipped by Hay Dance, who has won since. The step up in trip should suit. **Elpidos** is also racing beyond two miles for the first time and can oblige. He was unsuited by the slow pace at Doncaster last time, having previously stayed on well behind Penny A Day at Wetherby.

2.40: With Pridwell (likely to run at Haydock) keeping the weights down here, Martin Pipe can complete a valuable treble with his stablemate **Make A Stand**. Despite being eased down considerably last time when thrashing some novices, he still recorded a good time and looks up to winning again off a 9lb higher mark compared to when he won the William Hill Hurdle at Sandown.

3.10: see above.

3.40: Stately Home jumped particularly well when making all the running to beat some disappointing rivals at Sandown last time, but he will not have everything his own way here. **Five To Seven**, who also races from the front, has progressed with virtually every run over fences. He ran particularly well behind Naiysari last time. Beatson has completed a quick treble but this is a tougher test.

RICHARD EVANS

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Land Afar
1.10 Sea Victor
1.40 Fine Thyne
2.10 ROSENCRANTZ (nap)
2.40 Ashwell Boy
3.10 Callisoe Bay
3.40 Five To Seven
4.10 Tanglefoot Tipple

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.10 BARFORD SOVEREIGN.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 BARFORD SOVEREIGN (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.40 TWICKENHAM NOVICES CHASE (£9,241: 2m) (5 runners)

101	5-41213	DOWN THE FELL 42 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Johnson) J Johnson 8-11-11	A Maguire	88
102	5-1F031	GOLDEN HELLO 35 (D,F,G,S) (G Shouler) T Easterby 6-11-7	R Garritty	96
103	34-1222	LAND AFAR 23 (CD,G,S) (T Ford) P Webber 10-11-7	J Osborne	94
104	1-12112	MISTER DRUM 23 (F,G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 8-11-7	A P McCoy	[illegible]
105	111-112	MANDY'S MANTINO 35 (F,G,S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 7-11-3	P Hide	—

BETTING: 7-4 Land Afar, 2-1 Down The Fell, 7-2 Mandys Mantino, 9-2 Golden Hello, 6-1 Mister Drum.

1996: TRYING AGAIN 8-11-3 R Dunwoody (5-2) D Gandolfo 6 ran

1.10 JOHN COURT OF MARGATE QUALITY DECORATORS NOVICES HURDLE (£6,285: 2m 5f) (10 runners)

201	1111F2	COURBARIL 53 (D,F,G) (Richard Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 5-11-7	A P McCoy	95
202	2-1	READY MONEY CREEK 52 (G) (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 6-11-4	J Osborne	75
203	1	SEA VICTOR 12F (F) (J Abell) J L Harris 5-11-4	D Gallagher	[illegible]
204	5233	ADILOV 7F (T Mitchell) J Bridger 5-11-0	A Maguire	75
205	02-40	COUNTRY TAROUIN 51 (Miss C James) R Hodges 5-11-0	T Dascombe	—
206	0-0	GWITHIAN 37 (Mrs J Hicks) N Hawke 5-11-0	R Greene	—
207	0P020P/	HONEST DAVE 742F (D Newman) B Pearce 7-11-0	K Gaule	—
208	660602	MONTECOT 4 (Sir Michael Cornell) S Mellor 6-11-0	N Mann	89
209	65	SARENACARE 40 (Sarena Plastics) P Hobbs 5-11-0	G Tormey	—
210	232-03	MAYLIN MAGIC 33 (Exors of F Lipscomb) T Casey 6-10-9	M A Fitzgerald	67

BETTING: 9-4 Courbaril, 3-1 Sea Victor, 7-2 Ready Money Creek, 4-1 Montecot, 8-1 Adilov, 14-1 Maylin Magic, 20-1 others.

1996: JET RULES 6-11-0 A P McCoy (4-1) Mrs J Pitman 13 ran

1.40 SUNBURY NOVICES CHASE (£8,165: 3m) (4 runners)

301	/0/1211	FINE THYNE 59 (CD,F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 8-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
302	R361-	PAVI'S BROTHER 245 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Goodsell) P Hedger 9-11-10	I Lawrence	61
303	FP/322	SUNSET AND VINE 29 (G,S) (C Frewin) T Casey 10-11-5	A P McCoy	70
304	005/P	VOLLEYBALL 30 (Mrs M Tulnell) P Hedger 8-11-5	M Richards	—

BETTING: 8-11 Fine Thyne, 6-4 Sunset And Vine, 20-1 Pavi's Brother, 25-1 Volleyball

1996: FELLOW COUNTRYMAN 9-11-10 R Dunwoody (10-1) K Bailey 9 ran

2.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP HURDLE C4

(£3,745: 2m 5f) (13 runners)

401	138245-	LUCKY BLUE 329 (G,S) (F Newman) S Earle 10-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	97
402	F05-220	CALL MY GUEST 31 (G,S) (D Clee) R Peacock 7-11-7	A P McCoy	96
403	4-54500	ALLTIME DANCER 28 (F,G,S) (H Heyman) O Sherwood 5-11-3	J Osborne	91
404	4-F333P	DJAIS 38 (V,F,G) (J Duncan) J Jenkins 8-11-3	G Bradley	98
405	11-3543	ELPIDOS 35 (F,S) (Mrs M Winter) M Hammond 5-11-2	R Garritty	95
406	4U2212	MORSTOCK 47 (G) (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 7-10-10	T Dascombe (3)	92
407	11-2541	BARFORD SOVEREIGN 37 (D,F,G) (Barford Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 5-10-7	P Hide	[illegible]
408	01-112	ROSENCRANTZ 51 (BF,F) (L Fulford) Miss V Williams 5-10-6	R Johnson	95
409	1632-43	SMUGGLER'S POINT 30F (F,G) (Mrs V Hoare) J Bridger 7-10-5	A Maguire	94
410	3/00/6	STORM DUST 39 (C,G,S) (R Tica) Miss H Knight 8-10-5	B Fenton	—
411	5F23-3P	SEOD RIOGA 35 (V,D,F,G,S) (S Tindall) S Mellor 8-10-4	N Mann	84
412	4-12P25	KALASADI 38 (B,D,F) (G Libson) V Soane 6-10-2	M Richards	97
413	3524-04	ROYAL PIPER 37 (S) (A Darlington) A J Wilson 10-10-0	R Greene	98

Long handicap: Royal Piper 9-11

BETTING: 9-2 Elpidos, 5-1 Morstock, 6-1 Alltime Dancer, Rosencrantz, 7-1 Barford Sovereign, 12-1 Call My Guest, 14-1 others

1996: ANGELO'S DOUBLE 8-11-5 J Culloty (7-1) R Buckler 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALL MY GUEST 10l 2nd of 5 to Fired Earth in handicap hurdle here (2m 5f, good to firm) penultimate start. *ELPIDOS 3l 3rd of 6 to New Inn in* handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). MORSTOCK beat Phar From Funny 2l in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm) penultimate start. BARFORD SOVEREIGN beat Pedaltothemetal 9l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, good). ROSENCRANTZ beat *Portscatho 11l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Taunton* (2m 1f, good to firm) penultimate start. SMUGGLER'S POINT 12l 3rd of 8 to Supreme Lady in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good).
Selection: MORSTOCK

2.40 SUN KING OF THE PUNTERS LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£14,278: 2m) (15 runners) C4

501	3P3F0-5	PRIDWELL 35 (D,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock and Fleet Ptnrs) M Pipe 7-12-0	2nd pref	91
502	2206-22	MASTER BEVELED 4F (D,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 7-10-10	G Bradley	98
503	4020-14	SILVER GROOM 42 (D,F,S) (Silver Darling Ptnrs) R Akehurst 7-10-8	S Ryan (5)	97
504	03P4-16	CHIEF'S SONG 63 (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 7-10-7	D Gallagher	95
505	32-6100	DREAMS END 42 (D,F,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 9-10-5	R Farrant	94
506	1P/3P03-	KISSAIR 270 (D,S) (T Benson) N Henderson 6-10-5	M A Fitzgerald	94
507	52F1-4P	ASHWELL BOY 28 (D,F,G,S) (A S Racing) P Hobbs 6-10-5	R Johnson	90
508	1-12511	MAKE A STAND 28 (D,F,G,S) (P Deal) M Pipe 6-10-3	A P McCoy	[illegible]
509	P11-232	GALES CAVALIER 53 (D,G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 9-10-0	J Osborne	—
510	111/4-	ROLL A DOLLAR 448 (CD,F,G) (K Costello) D Elsworth 11-10-0	P Holley	—
511	100-021	MASTER TRIBE 7 (D,G,S) (Jebel Ali Racing Stables) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-0	2nd pref	96
512	122234	MYTTON'S CHOICE 23 (D,F,G) (G Mytton) D Nicholson 6-10-0	A Maguire	91
513	41-1114	TOM BRODIE 35 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs M Bird) J Johnson 7-10-0	B Fenton	89
514	30613-0	ROS CASTLE 170 (D,G,S) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 6-10-0	I Lawrence	88
515	5204-41	TEJANO GOLD 29 (D,G,S) (P Bradley) P Bradley 7-10-0	DOUBTFUL	93

Long handicap: Roll A Dollar 9-12, Master Tribe 9-12, Mytton's Choice 9-12, Tom Brodie 9-12, Ros Castle 9-11, Tejano Gold 9-4

BETTING: 7-4 Make A Stand, 6-1 Master Beveled, 7-1 Chief's Song, 8-1 Silver Groom, 10-1 Dreams End, Gales Cavalier, Mytton's Choice, 12-1 Tom Brodie, 20-1 Ashwell Boy, Kissair, 33-1 Roll A Dollar, Ros Castle

1996: WARM SPELL 6-11-2 A P McCoy (20-1) G Moore 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHIEF'S SONG beat Warm Spell 1l in hurdle here (2m, good to firm) penultimate start. MAKE A STAND beat MASTER BEVELED (3lb better off) 2l *in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good)* with SILVER GROOM (9lb better off) 12l 4th and DREAMS END (11lb better off) 44l 14th. GALES CAVALIER 18l 2nd of 6 to Dublin Flyer in grade II Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). MYTTON'S CHOICE 14l 4th of 5 to Tim in handicap hurdle here (3m 110yd, good to firm). TOM BRODIE beat MASTER BEVELED (1lb worse off) ¾l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) penultimate start.
Selection: *MAKE A STAND*

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Fanshawe	3	6	50.0	J Osborne	27	111	24.3
D Gandolfo	6	15	40.0	A Maguire	18	84	21.4
P Nicholls	5	16	31.3	M A Fitzgerald	18	94	19.1
R Alner	8	27	29.6	A P McCoy	8	46	17.4
D Nicholson	18	64	28.1	P Hide	6	46	13.0
K Bailey	12	55	21.8	Only qualifiers			

3.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE C4

(Grade II: £21,560: 2m) (8 runners)

601	11212-2	VIKING FLAGSHIP 42 (CD,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 10-11-10	A Maguire	91
602	1161-12	ASK TOM 28 (D,BF,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 8-10-10	R Garritty	95
603	54-1131	STORM ALERT 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs D Pennell) D Nicholson 11-10-8	R Johnson	98
604	2003-31	DANCING PADDY 35 (D,F,G,S) (Bychance Racing) K Cunningham-Brown 9-10-2	P Hide	94
605	4F10U-2	CLAY COUNTY 91 (D,F,G,S) (The County Set) M Hammond 12-10-0	A P McCoy	94
606	662-26P	BIG MATT 35 (C,D,F,G,S) (T Benfield, W Brown) N Henderson 9-10-0	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
607	4215-02	KIBREET 35 (D,BF,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Hobbs 10-10-0	G Tormey	94
608	715-122	CALLISOE BAY 38 (D,F,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 8-10-0	J Osborne	86

Long handicap: Clay County 9-13, Big Matt 9-12, Kibreet 9-11, Callisoe Bay 9-6

BETTING: 7-4 Ask Tom, 4-1 Big Matt, 9-2 Storm Alert, 6-1 Viking Flagship, 10-1 Clay County, Dancing Paddy, Kibreet, 20-1 Callisoe Bay.

1996 (run at Ascot): BIG MATT 8-10-4 M A Fitzgerald (9-1) N Henderson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

VIKING FLAGSHIP 5l 2nd of 4 to Sound Man in grade I Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy Chase at Sandown (2m, good). ASK TOM beat Nakir 27l in 6-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start.
STORM ALERT beat ASK TOM (1lb better off) ½l *in 5-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm).* Previously beat CALLISOE BAY 3½l in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good) with DANCING PADDY (8lb better off) 7½l 3rd. Earlier beat BIG MATT (10lb better off) neck in 4-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm). DANCING *PADDY beat KIBREET (3lb better off) 3½l in 3-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham* (2m 110yd, good to firm). CLAY COUNTY 10l 2nd of 4 to Super Tactics in handicap chase over course and distance (good). BIG MATT 28½l 6th of 12 to *Challenger du Luc in grade III Murphy's Gold Cup* Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start with KIBREET (2lb better off) 44l 10th.
Selection: ASK TOM

3.40 SUN PUNTERS CLUB FULWELL HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£7,081: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	110P25	STRONG MEDICINE 28 (D,F,G) (Dr D Sills) K Bailey 10-11-10	J Osborne	92
2	1132-F2	GO UNIVERSAL 35 (D,F,G,S) (Universal Conference Ltd) C Brooks 9-11-10	G Bradley	97
3	224121	STATELY HOME 37 (D,F,G) (P Bowen) P Bowen 6-11-2	R Johnson	98
4	PP54-43	LACKENDARA 59 (C,F,G,S) (Dreamy Bid Ptnrs) Miss H Knight 10-10-8	B Fenton	[illegible]
5	212F-22	FIVE TO SEVEN 35 (BF,F,G,S) (Two Plus Two) P Nicholls 8-10-7	A P McCoy	91
6	13-F111	BEATSON 30 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Gardiner) R Buckler 8-10-2	G Hogan (3)	92
7	113-260	GARRYLOUGH 43 (B,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 8-10-1	A Maguire	95

BETTING: 3-1 Stately Home, 4-1 Go Universal, 9-2 Beatson, Five To Seven, 7-1 Lackendara, 8-1 Strong Medicine, 10-1 Garrylough

1996: MASTER BOSTON 8-11-7 L Wyer (3-1) R Woodhouse 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

GO UNIVERSAL 6l 2nd of 10 to Addington Boy in the grade III Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm).
STATELY HOME beat STRONG MEDICINE (6lb better off) 12l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good). LACKENDARA 11l 3rd of 7 to Trying Again in a handicap over course and distance (good to soft). FIVE TO SEVEN 3½l 2nd of 11 to Naiysari in a handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). BEATSON beat Joliet Jones 19l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to soft). GARRYLOUGH best recent effort 5l 2nd of 6 to Larry's Lord in a handicap chase at Stratford (2m 5f 110yd, good).
Selection: GO UNIVERSAL

4.10 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,697: 2m) (9 runners)

1	0	CHEMIN-DE-FER 28 (R Gray) B Pearce 5-11-5	Mrs K Hills	—
2	5-5	CLINKING 42 (G Harwood) Mrs A Perrett 6-11-5	Mrs A Perrett	—
3		EMBARGO (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 5-11-5	Mr H Dunlop (7)	—
4		GREMATIC (Mrs J Hicks) N Hawke 6-11-5	R Greene	—
5	0P-	SHAVANO 257 (Mrs H Veall) M Madgwick 5-11-5	B Fenton	—
6	0-2	TANGLEFOOT TIPPLE 224 (Mrs J Purdie) R Alner 6-11-5	P Henley (3)	—
7		STAR ISLAND (High Seas Leisure Ltd) D Elsworth 4-10-7	Mr N Moore (7)	—
8		TEN TIMES (Times of Wigan) M Pipe 4-10-7	A P McCoy	—
9		CURRER BELL (C Murray) C Murray 4-10-2	K Gaule	—

BETTING: 9-4 Embargo, 11-4 Tanglefoot Tipple, 3-1 Ten Times, 6-1 Star Island, 12-1 Clinking, 16-1 Currer Bell, 20-1 others.

1996: COLONEL BLAZER 4-10-2 G Ryan (4-1 fav) Miss H Knight 21 ran

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.45 Minella Derby
1.15 Bimsey
1.45 Unguided Missile
2.15 Ocean Hawk
2.45 Simply Dashing
3.15 Time Won't Wait
3.45 Colour Code

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.45 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (£2,778: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1	1-1	MINELLA DERBY 70 (D,S) (G Kilby) P Nicholls 7-11-11	O Burrows (5)	[illegible]
2	2/342-16	TREMENDISTO 14F (G) (D Marshall) J Wilson 7-11-11	R Guest	86
3		BENFLEET 86F (J Ennis) M Pipe 6-11-6	D Walsh	—
4	50-65	FLAXLEY WOOD 32 (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 6-11-6	B Powell	75
5	440-45	GALEN 28 (J Bemon) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6	P Niven	73
6	3/	GIVRY 650P (J Boulter) G McCourt 7-11-6	D Bridgwater	—
7		HARBOUR ISLAND 91F (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-6	C Maude	—
8	03-P1	KONVEKTA QUEEN 33 (D,F) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 6-11-6	R Dunwoody	86
9		LA MON DERE (Mrs M Grant) P Hobbs 6-11-6	W Marston	—
10	633332	LEAP IN THE DARK 40 (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 5-11-6	O Pears	74
11	60-6	MEL 40 (Mrs P Hastons) R Buckler 7-11-6	L Harvey	68
12	P-04553	MR CHRISTIE 8 (D Mann Partners) Miss L Siddall 5-11-6	A Thornton	76
13	0P23P3/	NIYAKA 611 (G) (Mrs G Rees) J Wilson 10-11-6	J R Kavanagh	—
14	6/532-03	TWEEDSWOOD 36 (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 7-11-6	C Llewellyn	90
15	5	CLUB CARIBBEAN 74 (S Marsh) P Hobbs 5-11-1	N Williamson	74
16	263	PLEASURELAND 36 (Mrs S McGarvie) R Curtis 4-10-7	D Morris	94

BETTING: 2-1 Minella Derby, 4-1 Harbour Island, 5-1 Konvekta Queen, 6-1 Benfleet, 7-1 La Mon Dere, 8-1 Pleasureland, 10-1 Leap In The Dark, 12-1 others.

1996: THREE PHILOSOPHERS 7-11-12 C Llewellyn (Evens fav) T Forster 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	32	104	30.8	R Dunwoody	20	69	29.0
J Fitzgerald	14	52	26.9	J Tilley	3	11	27.3
C Brooks	7	29	24.1	D Bridgwater	11	42	26.2
N Twiston-Davies	14	59	23.7	C Llewellyn	10	45	22.2
Mrs J Pitman	5	22	22.7	C Maude	4	20	20.0
M Pipe	27	124	21.8	W Marston	6	36	16.7
J Jefferson	5	23	21.7	P Carberry	3	18	16.7
Miss H Knight	3	14	21.4	P Niven	10	68	14.7

☐ Avro Anson is reported "85 per cent fit" for today's Peter Marsh Chase by his trainer, Maurice Camacho. The gelding is *being aimed at a spring campaign and possible attempt at the* Grand National.

1.15 BELLCHARM MITSUBISHI CHAMPION HURDLE TRIAL BBC1

(Grade II: £18,680: 2m) (9 runners)

1	140-6	*RIGHT WIN 35 (D,S) (C Kavanagh) R Hannon 7-11-10*	J A McCarthy	71
2	10151-6	TRAGIC HERO 28 (B,CD,BF,G,S) (Knight Hawks) M Pipe 5-11-10	D Walsh	80
3	111/1F-3	DATO STAR 49 (D,S) (K Riley) J Jefferson 6-11-7	R Guest	89
4	3P3F0-5	PRIDWELL 35 (D,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock and Fleet) M Pipe 7-11-7	C Maude	[illegible]
5	31/143-2	BIMSEY 35 (D,F,G,S) (A Ryan) R Akehurst 7-11-3	R Dunwoody	98
6		EDIPO RE 113F (T Eaves) P Hobbs 5-11-3	P Carberry	—
7	100-021	MASTER TRIBE 7 (D,G,S) (Jebel Ali Stables) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-3	N Williamson	78
8	40-1421	MISTINGUETT 28 (D,F,G,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2	C Llewellyn	83
9	6F0-502	*ESKIMO NEL 28 (D,G,S) (First Chance Racing) J Spearing 5-10-12*	D Bridgwater	83

BETTING: 5-2 Bimsey, 11-4 Dato Star, 7-2 Pridwell, 7-1 Right Win, Master Tribe, 10-1 Mistinguett, 12-1 others.

1996: MYSILV 6-11-2 J Osborne (10-11 fav) C Egerton 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

TRAGIC HERO beat Dreams End neck in the 19-runner grade III Crowther Homes Swinton Handicap Hurdle over course and distance (good) final start last year.
DATO STAR 1l and short-head 3rd of 8 to Space Trucker in the grade II Newcastle Building Society Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). *PRIDWELL best effort 8½l 3rd of 16 to Collier Bay* in the grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft) last season with RIGHT WIN (3lb worse off) tailed off 12th. BIMSEY ¼l 2nd of 7 to Large Action in the grade II Bonusprint Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to firm) with PRIDWELL 22l 5th and RIGHT WIN (3lb worse off) 9l 6th. MASTER TRIBE *beat Black Queen head in the 23-runner grade I* Ladbroke Limited Extended Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good to yielding).
MISTINGUETT beat ESKIMO NEL (4lb better off) 4l in a conditions race at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm) with TRAGIC HERO (5lb better off) 32l 5th.
Selection: BIMSEY

1.45 PETER MARSH CHASE BBC1

(Limited handicap: grade II: £24,776: 3m) (6 runners)

1	21P24-2	JODAMI 63 (CD,F,G,S) (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 12-11-10	N Williamson	92
2	2123-12	UNGUIDED MISSILE 28 (CD,F,G,S) (D Hanson) G Richards 9-11-6	R Dunwoody	94
3	21121-6	NAHTHEN LAD 31 (C,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4	W Marston	88
4	P1P-443	SCOTTON BANKS 35 (V,CD,BF,G,S) (I Bray) T Easterby 8-11-1	P Carberry	[illegible]
5	P12125-	AVRO ANSON 280 (D,F,G) (B Skirton) M Camacho 9-10-7	P Niven	95
6	30-45U5	GRANGE BRAKE 42 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-7	D Walsh	79

Long handicap: Avro Anson 10-0, Grange Brake 9-1

BETTING: 11-10 Unguided Missile, 100-30 Jodami, 5-1 Nahthen Lad, 7-1 Scotton Banks, 10-1 Avro Anson, 16-1 Grange Brake

1996: SCOTTON BANKS 7-11-6 R Garritty (15-8 fav) M H Easterby 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

JODAMI 5l 2nd of 5 to The Grey Monk in a limited *handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good)*
UNGUIDED MISSILE 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Go Ballistic in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to firm). NAHTHEN LAD beat *Mr Mulligan* 8l in the 12-runner grade I Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) final start last season. SCOTTON BANKS tailed off 3rd of 4 to Musthaveaswig in a handicap chase at Doncaster (3m 2f, *good to firm). Best effort beat Barton Bank 15l in* the grade II Martell Cup Chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good) with *UNGUIDED MISSILE* (5lb worse off) about 7l 3rd.
AVRO ANSON ¾l 2nd of 7 to Addington Boy in the grade II Mumm Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good) penultimate start last season. GRANGE BRAKE 16¼l 5th of 7 to Belmont King in the grade II Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft).
Selection: *UNGUIDED MISSILE*

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Haydock Park: 1.45 Scotton Banks, 3.15 Easthorpe Kempton Park: 2.10 Seod Rioga, 3.40 Garrylough.

2.15 TOTE PREMIER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE BBC1

(Grade II: £12,740: 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	236-121	OCEAN HAWK 28 (F,G,S) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
2	011-1F3	PLEASURE SHARED 28 (G,S) (T Eaves) P Hobbs 9-11-10	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
3	51P/1	COPPER BOY 52 (G,S) (C Raymond) R Buckler 8-11-3	B Powell	[illegible]
4	2/00013-	*MUDAHIM 288 (CD,F,G,S) (In Touch Racing) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-3*	W Marston	—
5	43P/0	RULING 49 (C,G,S) (I MacDonald) K Burke 11-11-3	N Williamson	—
6	65-3P64	TOP SPIN 28 (F,G,S) (J Duncan) J Jenkins 8-11-3	P Carberry	87

BETTING: 4-5 Ocean Hawk, 7-4 Pleasure Shared, 10-1 Copper Boy, 12-1 Mudahim, 20-1 Ruling, Top Spin.

1996: BETTER TIMES AHEAD 10-11-3 A Dobbin (4-1) G Richards 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

OCEAN HAWK beat Trainglot 4l in the grade I Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm) with PLEASURE SHARED 2l 3rd and TOP SPIN (7lb better off) 5l 4th. COPPER BOY beat Kalasadi 6l *in a 12-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m* 6f 110yd, good). RULING 2l 3rd of 6 to Staunch Friend in the grade II Friendly Hotels Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to firm) in April 1993. TOP SPIN best effort last season beat Jakdi neck in a 19-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m *110yd, good).*
Selection: OCEAN HAWK

2.45 ST HELENS COLLEGE STUDENTS NOVICES CHASE (£11,715: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	5-11F11	SIMPLY DASHING 28 (D,F,G,S) (S Hammond) T Easterby 6-11-12	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
2	20122F	BALLYLINE 53 (G) (49 Partners) W Kemp 6-11-9	N Williamson	[illegible]
3	3P-P221	FLIMSY TRUTH 36 (G) (M Weston) M Weston 11-11-9	Mr M Harris	87
4	U4-0310	LA MEZERAY 52 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Hawkins) Mrs J Hawkins 9-11-4	D Walsh	54

BETTING: 2-9 Simply Dashing, 6-1 Flimsy Truth, 12-1 Ballyline, 20-1 La Mezeray.

1996: *NAHTHEN LAD 7-11-10 W Marston (10-11 fav) Mrs J Pitman 6 ran*

3.15 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£7,163: 2m) (5 runners)

1	1/3PP-43	SOUND REVEILLE 35 (D,G,S) (Mrs G Abecassis) C Brooks 9-11-10	M Berry (7)	[illegible]
2	126-204	EASTHORPE 37 (B,CD,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 9-11-9	J F Titley	[illegible]
3	1U5224-	TIME WON'T WAIT 255 (CD,F,G) (Old Berks Partners) R Phillips 8-11-8	J Railton	[illegible]
4	11-2311	POLITICAL TOWER 46 (D,F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 10-11-7	P Niven	94
5	1/F3B-41	*KONVEKTA KING 64 (D,F,G,S) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 9-10-13*	R Dunwoody	98

BETTING: 13-8 Political Tower, 15-8 Konvekta King, 100-30 Time Won't Wait, 6-1 Easthorpe, 7-1 Sound Reveille

1996: *CLAY COUNTY 11-11-12 A Maguire (5-4) M Hammond 3 ran*

3.45 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,634: 2m) (8 runners)

1	14-	BALLAD MINSTREL 294 (CD,S) (G Shouler) J Fitzgerald 5-11-11	P Carberry	
2	1	*COLOUR CODE 68 (G) (B Walker) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-11*	J Supple	
3	5	COSY RIDE 39 (D Equine Supplies) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4	C Llewellyn	
4		INTO THE BLACK (J Hackle) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4	P Niven	
5	3	*MERRY MASQUERADE 28 (G Brown) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4*	B Harding	
6	5	MONSIEUR DARCY 30 (J Adam) J Adam 6-11-4	J Railton	
7		CHAMPS-GIRL (First Thursday Club) B Murray 4-10-1	W Dwan	
8		TA-RA-ABIT (P Stringer) T Wall 4-10-1	N Williamson	

BETTING: 6-4 Colour Code, 7-2 Ballad Minstrel, 4-1 Into The Black, 7-1 Cosy Ride, 15-2 Merry Masquerade, 8-1 Monsieur Darcy, 33-1 Champs-Girl, 50-1 Ta-Ra-Abit.

1996: AGISTMENT 5-11-13 M Dwyer (11-1) J Fitzgerald 20 ran

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, 1 45), Newton Abbot (1 30), Carlisle (1 25)
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1 45), Leicester (1 30), Market Rasen (1 10)
WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 1 50) Lingfield Park (1 10), Sedgefield (1 25)
THURSDAY: *Lingfield Park (AW, 1 40)*, Huntingdon (1 20), Wetherby (1 35), Wincanton (1 30).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW 1 20), Doncaster (1 00), Folkestone (1 10), Uttoxeter (1 15)
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW 1 30), Ayr (BBC, 12 40), Cheltenham (C4, 1 00), Doncaster (C4, 12 45)
Flat meetings in bold

Pipe shows preference for weighting game

MARTIN PIPE yesterday made use of the fine print in the rules of racing to try to help him land two big-race triumphs today. Pipe declared Pridwell for the Sun King Of The Punters Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle at Kempton and the Bellcharm Mitsubishi Champion Hurdle Trial at Haydock.

He announced Haydock as the gelding's first preference, but leaving him in at Kempton means the weights for the £20,000-added race do not rise, boosting the chance of stable-companion and ante-post favourite Make A Stand. Pridwell's acceptance at Kempton prevents a weights rise of 14lb.

The double declarations will not attract a fine from the stewards as Rule 144 (iii) states that no penalty is to be imposed if a preference meeting is stated and both races have added prize-money of £4,000 or over.

Paul Bradley reacted to the news of Pridwell's declaration at Kempton by announcing his recent Uttoxeter winner, Tejano Gold, a non-runner. With the topweight left in the race, Tejano Gold was 10lb out of the handicap. "The horse is withdrawn and I have no other comment to make," he said.

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HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Captain Jack, right, jumps fluently on his way to victory in the Runnymede Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Kempton

Summer Spell warms to task

By Julian Muscat

HE MAY not have been the most appropriately named winner at a chilly Kempton Park yesterday, but Summer Spell warmed the hearts of a sparse crowd in winning the Walton Juvenile Novices' Hurdle with total authority.

The Alleged entire, a useful performer on the Flat, was entitled to move purposefully throughout the race. But his swift, accurate hurdling proved a potent asset as he swept clear of Mr Wild and Quality, with Far Dawn, unbeaten in two previous outings, in fourth. Coral wasted no time in pricing Summer Spell at 16-1, from 33-1, for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Not a day will pass between now and March without Cheltenham quotes being scattered like confetti. Most will be meaningless but this one might prove significant for a race which, so far, has assumed no definition at all. It remains to be seen how Summer Spell copes with hock-deep ground, but the prospect of testing conditions at Cheltenham is surely remote. This horse has all the Triumph Hurdle attributes — such as one can identify in previous winners.

Nicky Henderson knows more about that than most, having landed the prize with First Bout and Alone Success. Although Henderson played it softly in the winner's enclosure, there was no disguising his excitement for the brown colt, the mount of Mick Fitzgerald. "The horse loved it. Mick said he was brilliant and it looked a good race. He has been working very well. Mind you, he probably finds working with my jumpers terribly easy."

Fitzgerald, who kept a hold of Summer Spell until after the final flight, adopted the same tactics aboard Sharpical in the Ashford Novices' Hurdle. However, as dangers loomed on either side, Sharpical jumped awkwardly, was slowly away from the obstacle and failed to contain Secret Spring on the short run-in.

This was another informative contest. Secret Spring had failed narrowly against Sanmartino, prominent in the Champion Hurdle betting, at this venue three weeks ago. "Sanmartino stayed the better," Peter Hedger, who trains Secret Spring, said. "It's nice to have another good one in the yard but he won't be going to Cheltenham. He needs a flat track so we will aim him at Aintree instead."

If Hedger was indulging in plenty of theory, Robert Alner was inclined to throw the manuals out of the horsebox after Super Tactics had prevailed by 1¾ lengths from Fine Harvest in an eventful renewal of the Easter Hero Handicap Chase.

Alner, not a believer in the merit of all-weather gallops, has had his string so badly held up that he all but withdrew Super Tactics. "The horse put on 30 kilos even after we cut back his feed," the trainer said. "I only ran him because he likes this place so much. They make fools of you, these horses."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kempton Park

Going: good to firm

1.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Captain Jack (D Walsh, 6-4 fav); 2, Blazing Miracle (13-2); 3, Cardinal Gayle (7-1). 5 ran. 5l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £3.00. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.11

2.10 (2m ch) 1, Super Tactics (P Henley, 5-2 fav); 2, Fine Harvest (7-2); 3, Senor El Betrutti (7-1). 7 ran. NR: Scottish Bambi. 1¾l, 1¼l. R Alner. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £2.70. DF: £4.50. CSF: £10.90. Tricast: £47.55.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, Summer Spell (M A Fitzgerald, 11-4 fav: Thunderer's nap); 2, Mr Wild (9-2); 3, Quality (10-1). 16 ran. 3l, 4l. N Henderson. Tote: £3.60; £2.10, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £12.90. Trio: £122.60. CSF: £14.53

3.10 (3m ch) 1, Dextra Dove (C Maude, 11-4); 2, Philip's Woody (100-30); 3, Rose King (16-1). Grey Smoke 9-4 fav (f). 5 ran. 3l, 8l. S Earle. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £1.30. DF: £6.20. CSF: £11.23.

3.40 (2m hdle) 1, Secret Spring (M Richards, 3-1); 2, Sharpical (11-4); 3, Daraydan (5-2 fav). 13 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. P Hedger. Tote: £4.80; £1.90, £1.60, £3.00. DF: £4.50. Trio: £3.60. CSF: £11.12.

4.10 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Cokenny Boy (N Williamson, 5-1); 2, Olympian (7-2); 3, Diwali Dancer (11-4). Tim 2-1 fav. 6 ran. NR: Fortunes Course. 1½l, 1¼l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £6.00; £2.50, £2.40. DF: £5.80. CSF: £20.89

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.59 winning tickets. Pool of £3,741.33 carried forward to Kempton Park today).
Placepot: £61.10. Quadpot: £13.40.

Kelso

Going: good

1.00 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, Seeking Gold (B Storey, 11-4); 2, Ardent Love (7-2); 3, Call Me Black (6-1). Tellicherry 2-1 fav (ur). 9 ran. 4l, 1l. J Barclay. Tote: £3.30; £1.30, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £4.90. Trio: £10.00. CSF: £11.49.

1.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Rossel (A Dobbin, 5-1); 2, Soldat (1-2 fav); 3, Jackson Park (8-1). 12 ran. Nk, ¾l. P Monteith. Tote: £6.10; £1.50, £1.10, £2.90. DF: £2.50. Trio: £4.20. CSF: £7.20.

2.00 (4m ch) 1, Seven Towers (B Storey, 11-2); 2, Mony-Skip (16-1); 3, Lo Stregone (11-2). Into The Red 5-1 fav. 13 ran. 4l, 4l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £7.60; £2.60, £4.30, £1.70. DF: £78.30. Trio: £138.30. CSF: £82.84. Tricast: £458.79

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Direct Route (P Carberry, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Uncle Doug (16-1); 3, Thornton Gale (10-1). Hatta Breeze 100-30 jt-fav (f). 10 ran. 1l, ¾l. J Johnson. Tote: £4.30; £1.20, £2.20, £3.70. DF: £19.40. Trio: £236.90. CSF: £47.16. Tricast: £441.09

3.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, Wee River (J Callaghan, 7-4); 2, Regal Romper (9-2); 3, Lord Dorcet (6-4 fav). 6 ran. 2l, 3½l. G Moore. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £2.00. DF: £7.40. CSF: £8.94.

3.30 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Alzulu (P Carberry, 4-5 fav); 2, Revolt (12-1); 3, Mythical Approach (9-2). 19 ran. 7l, 1¼l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £9.00. Trio: £13.90. CSF: £11.32.
Placepot: £32.00. Quadpot: £19.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.45 (2m) 1, The Khoinoa (J Supple, 10-1); 2, Side On (6-4 fav); 3, Sir Boston (16-1). 12 ran. 10l, 1l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £22.90; £4.40, £1.20, £3.00. DF: £15.90. Trio: £36.40. CSF: £28.46

1.15 (6f) 1, Pat Express (L Charnock, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Treasure Touch (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Mirror Four Sport (12-1). 7 ran. 1l, 7l. P Haslam. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.50. DF: £2.80. CSF: £6.31.

1.50 (1m) 1, Rambo Waltzer (J Bramhill, 5-2); 2, Chadleigh Lane (11-8 fav); 3, Sandmoor Denim (13-2). 12 ran. NR: Chilibang Bang. 8l, 1¼l. D Nicholls. Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £2.50. Trio: £6.10. CSF: £5.75

2.20 (7f) 1, Truly Bay (D Harrison, 11-4); 2, Soaked (9-4 fav); 3, Unspoken Prayer (5-2). 5 ran. 3l, 5l. T Barron. Tote: £3.80; £1.90, £1.50. DF: £4.80. CSF: £8.67

2.50 (7f) 1, Kingchip Boy (A Clark, 10-1); 2, Bold Aristocrat (11-1); 3, Pleasure Trick (11-2). Awesome Venture 5-1 fav. 14 ran. ½l, 4l. M Ryan. Tote: £11.00; £3.10, £3.90, £4.30. DF: £41.00. Trio: £153.70. CSF: £114.13. Tricast: £627.27.

3.20 (1m 3f) 1, Calder King (R Lappin, 7-2); 2, Forzair (100-30); 3, Mad Militant (5-4 fav). 11 ran. Nk, 4l. J Eyre. Tote: £7.00; £2.10, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £14.20. Trio: £5.30. CSF: £16.37

3.55 (1m 4f) 1, Chine Castle (S Drowne, 10-11 fav: Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Qualtair Pride (50-1); 3, Golden Hadeer (3-1). 9 ran. 4l, ½l. P Haslam. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £13.20, £1.20. DF: £225.20. Trio: £71.60. CSF: £73.02. Tricast: £109.55.
Placepot: £15.40. Quadpot: £6.10.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.00 Prince Of Saints. 1.30 Daring Past. 2.00 Bud's Bet. 2.30 Twin States. 3.00 Del Piero. 3.30 Abbeylands. 4.00 Supreme Target.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 SWALE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,931: 3m 1f 110yd) (23 runners)

1	-1F5	SHARE OPTIONS 29 (F) T Easterby 6-11-4	J Callaghan
2	2432	SMART APPROACH 36 (F) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-13	C McCormack (7)
3	00-3	BASINCROFT 39 Miss S Williamson 7-10-12	A Todd (7)
4	55-0	CARNMONEY 38 J Sisterson 9-10-12	G Cahill
5	-552	CHEATER 22 J Howard Johnson 6-10-12	A S Smith
6	-940	CHILL FACTOR 49 Mrs M Reveley 7-10-12	G Lee (3)
7	00-P	CLASSIC JESTER 213 R Champion 6-10-12	M Moloney
8	-200	CLONGOUR 29 F Murphy 7-10-12	M Foster
9	-00	EDSTONE 30 J Curtis 5-10-12	D Byrne
10	3	ERNI 39 T Tate 5-10-12	R McCarthy (7)
11	432F	JILLS JOY 39 J Norton 5-10-12	W Fry
12		KING FLY 259P Mrs S Horner-Harker 7-10-12	M Foster
13	5/P	LIAM'S LOSS 39 J Parkes 8-10-12	V Smith
14	4/	MY YOUNG PET 780P R McDonald 6-10-12	K Jones
15	4-30	PHAR ECHO 49 L Lungo 6-10-12	R Supple
16	-0	POLITICAL BILL 47 J Charlton 6-10-12	K Johnson
17	0/6	PRINCE OF SAINTS 46 M Hammond 8-10-12	A Dobbin
18	0-60	WELBURN BOY 8 (B) R Woodhouse 5-10-12	B Storey
19		DARING MAGIC J Hetherton 5-10-7	E Callaghan (3)
20		JUST POLLY H Alexander 5-10-7	Mr T J Barry (7)
21		KAMBLETREE M Sowersby 6-10-7	D Parker
22	P	OFF PISTE SALLY 53 F Murphy 5-10-7	Mr R Thornton (5)
23	00	OTTADINI 29 W Reed 5-10-7	T Reed

3-1 Smart Approach, 7-2 Share Options, 5-1 Prince Of Saints, 6-1 Cheater, 8-1 Erni, 10-1 Phar Echo, 12-1 Chill Factor, Political Bill, 14-1 others.

1.30 BEDALE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,337: 2m) (18)

1	1/1	DARING PAST 38 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-9	A Dobbin
2	0-1B	NOYAN 22 (BF,F,G) R Fahey 7-11-9	Mr R Thornton (5)
3	-252	BOLD BOSS 43 (G,S) G Moore 8-11-3	B Storey
4	PRPP	CARDINAL SINNER 30 (B) J Wade 8-11-3	K Jones
5	P1/0	CHILDSWAY 134 (F,G) S Robinson 9-11-3	Michael Brennan (5)
6	5P43	CURRAGH PETER 38 Mrs P Bickerton 10-11-3	Guy Lewis (3)
7		DANDY DES PLAUTS Mrs S Smith 6-11-3	T Reed
8	P0-P	ERNEST ARAGORN 43 (V) Mrs S Lamyman 8-11-3	B Clifford
9	4F43	FENWICK'S BROTHER 31 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3	R Wilkinson (7)
10	-0US	GONE ASHORE 8 M Barnes 6-11-3	S Taylor (5)
11	30PP	LEPTON 42 (G) J Curtis 6-11-3	J Callaghan
12	501-	ROYAL CRIMSON 329 (F) M Hammond 8-11-3	Mr C Bonner (5)
13	-600	SOUTH COAST STAR 29 J Howard Johnson 7-11-3	A S Smith
14	P020	URBAN DANCING 42 (G,S) B Ellison 8-11-3	G Cahill
15	-4U3	WEEHEBY 35 (F) M Barraclough 8-11-3	T J Murphy
16	2-32	CHORUS LINE 78 (G) P Beaumont 8-10-12	R Supple
17	002-	DIDDY RYMER 282 Mrs S Smith 7-10-12	Mr P Murray
18	4	EL CRANK SENOR 98 R Woodhouse 5-10-7	D Byrne

5-1 Bold Boss, 6-1 Daring Past, 7-1 Royal Crimson, 8-1 Fenwick's Brother, Noyan, 10-1 Chorus Line, Urban Dancing, 12-1 others

2.00 DARLINGTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,058: 2m) (15)

1	0546	ANORAK 31 (F) G Moore 7-12-0	N Hannity (7)
2	2-00	BUD'S BET 8 (D,F) Miss J Craze 9-11-8	M Newton
3	0402	BOY BLAKENEY 29 (B) Mrs S Smith 4-11-2	R Wilkinson
4	00-2	WEATHER ALERT 43 (G) K Morgan 6-11-1	R Massey
5	-462	CHUMMY'S SAGA 45 (F) L Lungo 7-10-13	I Jardine (4)
6	0652	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 31 (B) W McKeown 6-10-12	G Cahill
7	-300	APPEARANCE MONEY 35F F Murphy 6-10-12	T Hogg (4)
8	-00P	FAMILIAR ART 29 (CD,G,S) D Moffatt 6-10-10	I Pike (7)
9	00-5	BOLD TOP 35 (B) B Rothwell 5-10-7	E Callaghan
10	066	JALMAID 8 H Alexander 5-10-6	R McGrath
11	50-0	KIERCHEM 47 C Grant 6-10-5	Michael Brennan
12	PU00	SEE YOU ALWAYS 8 (B,D,F) M Barnes 7-10-0	S Taylor
13	U-P5	ARTHUR BEE 43 B Bousfield 10-10-0	C McCormack (4)
14	0502	SECONDS AWAY 32 J Goldie 6-10-0	G Lee
15	P/P	TOUGH CHARACTER 43 M Sowersby 9-10-0	N Horrocks (4)

5-1 Chummy's Saga, 6-1 Environmental Law, Boy Blakeney, 7-1 Weather Alert, 8-1 Bud's Bet, 10-1 Seconds Away, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Streeter, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; T Easterby, 3 from 8, 37.5%; K Morgan, 13 from 43, 30.2%; J J Quinn, 6 from 25, 24.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 18 from 83, 21.7%; J Fitzgerald, 11 from 51, 21.6%; J Norton, 3 from 16, 18.8%; L Lungo, 8 from 43, 18.6%.

JOCKEYS: A S Smith, 16 winners from 51 rides, 31.4%; T Eley, 3 from 12, 25.0%; E Callaghan, 6 from 29, 20.7%; W Fry, 4 from 26, 15.4%; D Byrne, 6 from 41, 14.6%; A Dobbin, 13 from 91, 14.3%; G Cahill, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

2.30 LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,160: 3m 1f 110yd) (17)

1	P-3P	FAR SENIOR 49 (B,D,F,G) P Wegmann 11-11-12	Gary Lyons
2	11-3	RUSSIAN CASTLE 4 (F,G) J Wade 8-11-9	K Jones
3	-64P	POTATO MAN 31 (S) B Ellison 11-11-3	A Dobbin
4	3U02	GALE AHEAD 45 (D,F,G) G Moore 7-11-2	N Bentley
5	-6FF	MARCHWOOD 30 (G,S) N Chamberlain 10-11-2	T Reed
6	PP-U	TWIN STATES 45 (CD,F,G,S) J Turner 8-11-2	W Fry
7	061F	SISTER ROSZA 31 (S) Mrs S Lamyman 9-11-1	D Byrne
8	2364	THE TOASTER 31 (C,F,G,S) Miss M Milligan 10-10-13	A S Smith
9	P3-1	HEAVENLY CITIZEN 30 (CD,F,G,S) J Gledson 9-10-13	B Storey
10	-433	SPARROW HALL 30 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-10-8	F Leahy (3)
11	13P4	JENDEE 29 (F,S) B Ellison 9-10-3	G Cahill
12	-PP1	TIM SOLDIER 31 (C,G,S) M Barraclough 10-10-2	R Supple
13	-P23	OLE OLE 67 (F,S) Mrs E Moscrop 11-10-0	J Callaghan
14	5-PP	SNOOK POINT 29 (G) D Lamb 10-10-0	J Berlie
15	2/4-	I'M IN CLOVER 437 J Norton 8-10-0	B Grattan (7)
16	-33P	KENMARE RIVER 39 (B) R Collins 7-10-0	Mr R Thornton (5)
17	446P	BRIGHT DESTINY 39 J Goldie 6-10-0	G Lee (3)

5-1 Sister Rosza, 6-1 Russian Castle, 7-1 Gale Ahead, 8-1 Heavenly Citizen, Ole Ole, 10-1 Sparrow Hall, The Toaster, 12-1 others.

3.00 LEYBURN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,553: 2m) (19)

1	-406	MASTER HYDE 38 (D,F) W Storey 8-12-0	R McGrath (5)
2	F-P0	BEND SABLE 42 (D,F,S) F Storey 7-11-13	B Storey
3	4523	AUBURN BOY 33 (D,G) M W Easterby 10-11-11	Michael Brennan (5)
4	1233	MITHRAIC 66 (D,BF,F) W Cunningham 5-11-10	L McGrath (7)
5	631	STAR SELECTION 29 (S) J Mackie 6-11-5	E Husband (3)
6	/42-	SHAHGRAM 427 (S) P Beaumont 9-11-6	B Grattan (7)
7	554-	TAPATCH 236 (CD,F,G) M W Easterby 9-11-6	P Midgley (3)
8	658-	ALL CLEAR 285 (D,G,S) J Howard Johnson 6-11-4	D Parker
9	-516	DEL PIERO 47 (D,G) M Hammond 6-11-3	A Dobbin
10	2-U0	JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 39 (V,CD,G) A Streeter 6-11-1	T Eley
11	124-	MR MORIARTY 75F (CD,F) S Bowring 6-11-0	M Foster
12	3-00	GRANDMAN 50 (S) D Moffatt 6-10-10	D J Moffatt
13	05-P	GALLARDINI 50 (D,G) B Rothwell 8-10-8	R Supple
14	25-6	BEAU MATELOT 12F (B) Miss M Milligan 5-10-7	G Cahill
15	4631	ROBSERA 38 (D,G) J Quinn 6-10-6	D Byrne
16	0PP2	SHIFTING MOON 45 (B,F) F Jordan 5-10-6	S Wynne
17	531	RUSSIAN RASCAL 45 (CD,G) T Easterby 4-10-5	Mr R Thornton (5)
18	2-33	HERE COMES HERBIE 29 W Storey 5-10-5	M Moloney
19	14-2	OPERA FAN 30 (CD,G) K Morgan 5-10-5	A S Smith

6-1 Star Selection, 7-1 Russian Rascal, 8-1 Auburn Boy, Mithraic, 9-1 Shifting Moon, 10-1 Shahgram, Mr Moriarty, 12-1 others.

3.30 SEAMER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,441: 2m 3f) (15)

1	35-1	LIEN DE FAMILLE 29 (F,S) J Quinn 7-12-0	B Storey
2	5121	TWIN FALLS 30 (C,F,G,S) G Moore 6-11-6	J Callaghan
3	31-1	ABBEYLANDS 71 (F) J Howard Johnson 9-11-3	A S Smith
4	/1P	MONNAIE FORTE 50 (G,S) J Adam 7-11-2	M Moloney
5	223-	KNOW-NO-NO 322 (G) M Hammond 8-10-9	A Dobbin
6	2U-P	WORLD WITHOUT END 39 (S) M Sowersby 8-10-6	D Parker
7	-461	GARBO'S BOY 33 (G) J Turner 7-10-5	W Fry
8	0PP1	BOSWORTH FIELD 30 (B,CD,S) Mrs S Horner-Harker 9-10-4	M Foster
9	63-U	CAMPTOSAURUS 40 D Alder 8-10-1	K Johnson
10	24P-	MOST RICH 252P B Ellison 9-10-0	G Cahill
11	6060	WEE WIZARD 38 (F,G,S) M Barnes 8-10-0	S Taylor (5)
12	-4FP	BOSSYMOSS 29 (F) A Streeter 8-10-0	T Eley
13	4P02	KARENASTINO 31 Mrs S Smith 6-10-0	Mr P Murray
14	-600	MARLINGFORD 49 (G,S) Mrs J Jordan 10-10-0	L McGrath (7)
15	3333	KILTULLA 39 Mrs S Smith 7-10-0	R Wilkinson (7)

9-2 Lien De Famille, 5-1 Abbeylands, 6-1 Twin Falls, 7-1 Garbo's Boy, 8-1 Know-No-No, Bosworth Field, Karenastino, 12-1 others.

4.00 CATTERICK MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,361: 2m) (21)

1	34	BILLY BUCKSKIN 28 J Norton 5-11-10	Mr R Thornton (5)
2	6	BRANDSBY MINSTER 30 P Beaumont 6-11-10	T Hagger (7)
3	R	EASTCLIFFE 35 W McKeown 5-11-10	G Cahill
4		HELPERBY J Howard Johnson 5-11-10	G F Ryan (5)
5	0	HUNTING SLANE 30 C Grant 5-11-10	Michael Brennan (5)
6	0/	NOSAM 789 N Mason 7-11-10	S Haworth (7)
7	0	PHAR SMOOTHER 35 J Fitzgerald 5-11-10	F Leahy (3)
8	0	RECCA 30 Denys Smith 5-11-10	R Burns (7)
9	0	SNOOTY ESKIMO 29 J Haldane 5-11-10	E Callaghan (3)
10		STONESBY G Moore 5-11-10	N Hannity (7)
11		SUNSTRIKE R McDonald 5-11-10	C McCormack (7)
12	04	THE STUFFED PUFFIN 30 L Lungo 5-11-10	I Jardine (7)
13	0	TIDAL RACE 46 J Haldane 5-11-10	P Midgley (3)
14	0	MISS FORTINA 46 J Curtis 5-11-5	M Newton (7)
15		SEVEN FOUR SEVEN Mrs L Williamson 6-11-5	S Taylor (5)
16	0	SUPREME TARGET 266 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5	G Lee (3)
17	0	THE MUCKLE QUINE 28 J J O'Neill 6-11-5	R McGrath (5)
18		AUTUMN LORD P Beaumont 4-10-12	B Grattan (7)
19		HAWKERS DEAL D Nolan 4-10-12	R Massey (3)
20		JO LIGHTNING B Ellison 4-10-12	Mr R Hale
21		BUDDLEIA J Turner 4-10-7	N Horrocks (7)

4-1 The Stuffed Puffin, 5-1 Supreme Target, 6-1 Helperby, 7-1 Phar Smoother, Billy Buckskin, 8-1 Brandsby Minster, 10-1 Stonesby, 12-1 others.

Chepstow honour for O'Sullevan

PETER O'SULLEVAN, who is to retire as the BBC's senior racing commentator later this year, is to have a race named after him at Chepstow on Saturday March 8.

The £20,000-added Peter O'Sullevan Novices' Hurdle for five-year-olds, run over two miles, will be televised as part of the BBC's *Grandstand* programme that afternoon, with O'Sullevan providing the commentary, just five days after his 79th birthday.

Rodger Farrant, Chepstow's clerk of the course, said: "Peter has been a great friend to us over the years, and when I asked him if we could name this race after him in his retirement year, he said he would be delighted to be honoured in this way."

Farrant added: "Previous winners include Killiney (who took the first running in 1971), Border Incident (1975), Gaye Brief (1982), Very Promising (1983) and Challenger Du Luc (1985). We'll be hoping for another good quality line-up on March 8."

White has licence application refused

Point-to-point
By Carl Evans

THE season should start this weekend but you could forgive leading amateur, Richard White, for wishing otherwise.

White, 22, an assistant to trainer Philip Hobbs, suffered convulsions in the yard last August. Under the Jockey Club's medical guidelines, he is considered a risk to himself and other riders and was told only on Thursday that he cannot reapply for a licence until one year after the incident.

News of his misfortune comes in the same week that Jonathan Lower, a diabetes sufferer, has been given hope that he can ride again and White is equally optimistic. "I have to get on with it," White said. "I have had no repeat of the problem and brain scans showed there was nothing wrong with me. They proved I did not have epilepsy."

In another test, a doctor discovered that White's neck and pelvis were so misaligned, the result of various falls, that the problem may have been caused by a trapped nerve.

The news could not have come at a worse time for White, who won on Dublin Flyer at Wincanton three years ago while working for Tim Forster. He had a strong squad for the hunter chase season and was due to ride Ryming Cuplet in the Cheltenham Foxhunters'.

His mother, Tessa, trains nine pointers in North Devon and he had an arrangement to ride for Jenny Pidgeon and Victor Dartnall. The latter had booked White to ride high-class Chilipour at Barbury Castle tomorrow, the weekend's only surviving fixture after two other meetings were cancelled because of frost.

Jamie Jukes will deputise on Chilipour for a stable which also runs last season's most successful pointer, Phar Too Touchy, in the mares' race with owner, Beccy Francis, in the saddle.

TODAY'S MEETING: Easton Harriers at Higham (postponed). TOMORROW: P P O R C at Barbury Castle, 2m north of Marlborough (first race 11.30): Cambridge Harriers at Cottenham (*postponed until January 25*).

Urubande has pace to master Nicholson's challengers

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

DAVID NICHOLSON sends a six-strong team to Leopardstown tomorrow with two, Zabadi and Escartefigue, attempting to give Britain a second successive AIG Europe Champion Hurdle.

Last year's winner, Collier Bay, misses the race because his trainer, Jim Old, does not consider him forward enough to travel, and fitness after the recent cold snap will also be a concern to Nicholson.

"The ground is too fast in England so I have to send them somewhere," Nicholson said. Escartefigue has not run since finishing second to Alderbrook at Ayr in April and would be better suited by softer ground, while Zabadi will be hard pressed to repeat his half-length supremacy over Urubande at Newbury in November.

Urubande has been deserted by Charlie Swan in favour of Theatreworld, who has won three times at Leopardstown but rarely lived up to his connections' hopes when tried in the highest class. Given that **Urubande** endured a difficult journey to Newbury, he is worth a bet on home turf.

This is the acid test for the Sun Alliance Hurdle winner to determine whether he has the pace for two miles in top company, although Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, is confident Urubande has the necessary speed.

Nicholson's unbeaten novice chaser, Mulligan, faces a stiff task against **Danoli** in the Bailey's Arkle Perpetual Challenge Cup and, despite the trip being short of Danoli's best, Mulligan may find the job beyond him.

Call It A Day looks better than Nicholson's other runner, Kadi, in the Foxrock Handicap Chase, but may have to settle for second to **Arctic Weather**, a good winner at Navan six days ago.

Namoodaj, formerly with Alec Stewart on the Flat, makes his hurdling debut in the Waterford Crystal Hurdle but his inexperience can be exploited by **Highly Motivated**, who was brought down by his stable companion, Evriza, last time.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

2.40 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE
(Grade I. £34,000: 2m) (7 runners)

1	514123-	COCKNEY LAD 20 (G,S) (D Daly) N Meade 8-11-10	R Hughes
2	12-	DARDJINI 35 (G) (High Street Racing Synd) N Meade 7-11-10	P Carberry
3	211412-	URUBANDE 50 (F,G,S) (M St Quinton) A P O'Brien 7-11-10	R Dunwoody
4	531432-	ESCARTEFIGUE 274 (S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson (GB) 5-11-6	D Bridgwater
5	011331-	THEATREWORLD 20 (G,S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 5-11-6	C Swan
6	51161-1	ZABADI 50 (G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson (GB) 5-11-6	A Maguire
7	20306-0	NOTCOMPLAININGBUT 8 (G,S) (Mrs C Moore) P Mullins 6-11-5	T P Treacy

BETTING: 7-4 Escartefigue, 7-2 Urubande, 9-2 Zabadi, 6-1 Theatreworld, 8-1 Dardjini, 10-1 Cockney Lad, 33-1 Notcomplainingbut.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.25 Rasayel. 1.55 Invocation. 2.25 Hever Golf Charger. 2.55 Globetrotter. 3.25 Sooty Tern. 3.55 Fort Knox.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.25 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,484: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

1	12-4	MONTONE 15 (V,C,F,G,S) J Jenkins 7-11-7	M Mannish 7
2	50-0	SQUIRE'S OCCASION 9 R Akehurst 4-11-1	J Tizzard (5) 11
3	61-2	RASAYEL 9 (C,D,F,G) P Evans 7-10-11	W McLaughlin (5) 2
4	066-	OUTSTAYED WELCOME 108 (D,F) M Haynes 5-10-9	Miss Y Haynes 8
5	60-4	ELA MAN HOWA 7 (C,F,G) A Bailey 6-10-8	Miss A L Hutchinson (5) 1
6	60-4	CAPTAIN MARMALADE 14 (C,G) D Thom 8-10-3	Miss D Jones 10
7	000-	THORNIWAMA 180 (C,G) J Bridger 6-10-0	D Bridger (5) 5
8	025-	SOOJAMA 161 (B,D,F,G) R Flower 7-9-13	T McCarthy 12
9	533-	DON'T DROP BOMBS 38 (V,CD,F,G) D Thom 8-9-11	Miss J Feilden 9
10	120-	CHIEFTAIN'S CROWN 183J (B,F) T Hind 6-9-10	Miss P Jones 6
11	350/	ALOSAILI 371J J Cullinan 10-9-8	Miss Emma Garley (5) 4
12	060-	SARUM 38 (C,F,G) J Long 11-9-5	T Waters (5) 3

3-1 Rasayel, 9-2 Ela Man Howa, 5-1 Montone, Squire's Occasion, 8-1 others.

1.55 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,817: 6f) (9)

1	000-	ROBO MAGIC 29 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 5-9-7	F Lynch (3) 4
2	-231	KRYSTAL MAX 9 (CD,F,G) J Cullinan 4-8-13	D Sweeney (5) 3
3	4-35	THE FRISKY FARMER 2 (D,F,S) W G M Turner 4-8-11	T Sprake 5
4	40-0	LORD SKY 10 (D,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-8-9	S Sanders 9
5	60-4	NORLING 14 (D,F,G) K Cunningham-Brown 7-8-9	C Munday 6
6	0-10	INVOCATION 2 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 10-8-7	A Clark 1
7	0-43	LIFT BOY 9 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 8-8-7	Candy Morris 2
8		SILENT SYMPHONY Mrs S Williams 5-8-2	S Drowne 7
9	00-6	MISS PICKPOCKET 16 (C,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-0	Angela Gallimore (7) 8

9-4 Krystal Max, 4-1 Lift Boy, 9-2 Invocation, 6-1 The Frisky Farmer, 8-1 Lord Sky, Norling, Miss Pickpocket, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lord Huntingdon, 43 winners from 208 runners, 20.7%; L Montague Hall, 11 from 54, 20.4%; M Bell, 15 from 82, 18.3%; M Johnston, 43 from 260, 16.5%; Miss G Kelleway, 19 from 138, 13.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 79 winners from 377 rides, 21.0%; D Griffiths, 6 from 37, 16.2%; D McKeown, 17 from 110, 15.5%; S Whitworth, 32 from 214, 15.0%; Miss J Feilden, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

2.25 SNAFFLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,700: 6f) (6)

1		BLUES MAGIC M Bell 9-0	G Faulkner (5) 6
2	32-0	COUNTLESS TIMES 14 (BF) W Muir 9-0	A Clark 5
3	55-2	HARMONY IN RED 11 C Dwyer 9-0	M Wigham 2
4	206-	HEVER GOLF CHARGER 53 T Naughton 9-0	J Weaver 4
5	0-	ELIZA 88 Lord Huntingdon 8-9	D Harrison 3
6	0-	SHE'S DAWAN 102 P Mitchell 8-9	A Whelan (3) 1

2-1 Harmony In Red, 4-1 Eliza, She's Dawan, 5-1 Hever Golf Charger, 8-1 others.

2.55 MUNNINGS LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,384: 1m 2f) (4)

1	0-11	GLOBETROTTER 4 (C,G) M Johnston 9-1	J Weaver 4
2	135-	SPANIARD'S MOUNT 61 (V,S) M Tompkins 8-12	S Sanders 3
3	204-	LAWN LOTHARIO 72 M Johnston 8-11	D McKeown 2
4	0-25	SERENADE 9 M Haynes 8-11	G Bardwell 1

4-6 Globetrotter, 4-1 Spaniard's Mount, 5-1 Lawn Lothario, 6-1 Serenade.

3.25 CECIL ALDIN HANDICAP
(£3,436: 1m) (10)

1	311-	MR NEVERMIND 38 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 7-10-0	S Whitworth 9
2	000-	QUEENFISHER 53 (F) G L Moore 5-9-12	F Lynch (3) 4
3	550-	ROBELLION 86 (V,CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-9-6	D Harrison 2
4	06-2	OBERONS BOY 11 (G) S Dow 4-9-0	S Sanders 1
5	00-0	SUPERIOR FORCE 11 (CD,F,G) Miss B Sanders 4-9-0	A Whelan (3) 10
6	3-64	MANABAR 7 (B,D,G) M Polglase 5-8-10	T G McLaughlin 8
7	4-56	DOUBLE MARCH 9 P Webber 4-8-8	R Perham 7
8	0-02	KI CHI SAGA 9 (G,S) M Madgwick 5-8-7	A Clark 6
9	2-23	SOOTY TERN 11 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Bradley 10-8-7	G Bardwell 5
10	02-3	GOLD LANCE 3 (B) R O'Sullivan 4-7-10	J Dunn 3

9-4 Mr Nevermind, 6-1 Manabar, Sooty Tern, 7-1 Ki Chi Saga, 8-1 others.

3.55 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP
(Final: £9,061: 7f) (13)

1	851-	SPEEDY CLASSIC 29 (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 8-10-0	A Clark 13
2	610-	GREATEST 29 (B,CD,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-8	S Sanders 3
3	040-	BLUE FLYER 29 (B,C,D,F,G) R Ingram 4-9-7	J Weaver 9
4	11-0	TWIN CREEKS 15 (CD,F,G) V Soane 6-9-3	C Rutter 8
5	-031	SEA DANZIG 2 (CD,G) J Bridger 4-9-0 (4ex)	D Harrison 11
6	52-1	STEP ON DEGAS 14 (CD,F,G) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-13	D Griffiths (5) 4
7	31-1	ROYAL CARLTON 14 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-8-13	S Whitworth 6
8	1-44	APOLLO RED 11 (CD,F,G,S) G L Moore 8-8-9	Candy Morris 7
9	60-3	JO MAXIMUS 14 (D,F,G) S Dow 5-8-9	A Daly (5) 5
10	04-2	FORT KNOX 14 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 6-8-9	M Wigham 10
11	66-4	SHONTAINE 9 (D,BF,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-7	D McKeown 2
12	3-31	HAWAII STORM 9 (B,CD,G,S) D French Davis 9-7-11	M Baird (3) 1
13	63-4	BARGASH 14 (V,D,BF,F,S) P Evans 5-7-10	D Wright 12

3-1 Royal Carlton, 9-2 Speedy Classic, Step On Degas, 6-1 Fort Knox, 8-1 Sea Danzig, Jo Maximus, 10-1 others.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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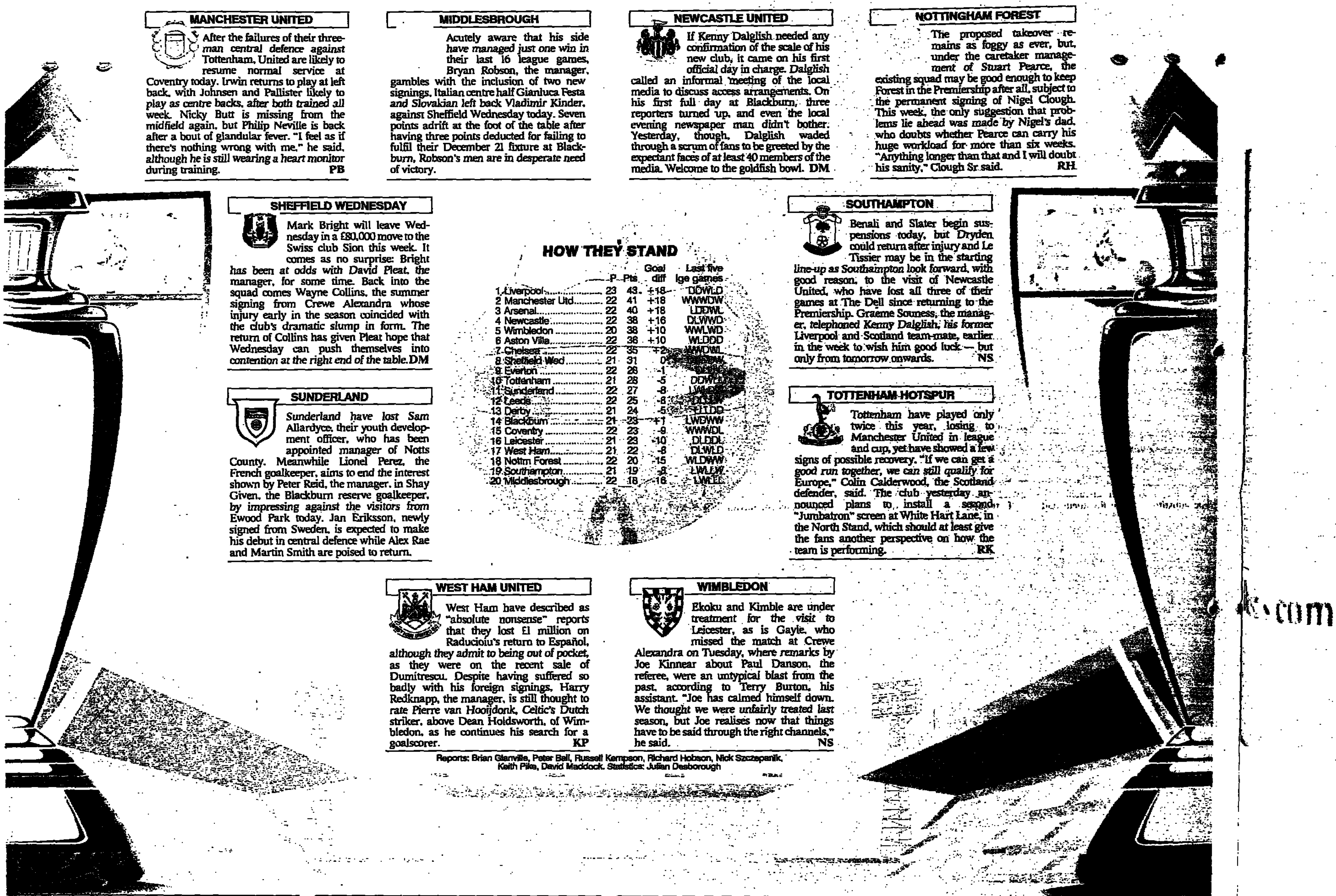
THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND



ARSENAL

Arsenal's impressive FA Cup third-round replay victory at Sunderland on Wednesday proved that there is life after Ian Wright, and, for that matter, John Hartson. It was one of those unusual games in which no Arsenal player was sent off, and Dennis Bergkamp, soon to be suspended himself, scored a remarkable goal. If Arsenal do manage to get Hristo Stoichkov, *the combustible Bulgaria forward, on loan* from Barcelona, who will drop out of the attack? **BG**

ASTON VILLA

With Villa's midfield riven by injuries — Taylor and Draper *are out — Sasa* Curcic, the disaffected Yugoslav, may return to the fold out of necessity against Liverpool this afternoon. "Something has clearly upset him," Brian Little, the manager, said. "I'm trying to get to the root of the problem and I've got a rough idea what it is. Hopefully, we'll get the whole thing sorted out soon." A *physically* fit and psychologically sound Curcic is vital if Villa are to surviye at Anfield. **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tony Parkes returned from Italy with the football equivalent of a school merit badge after visiting Sven Göran Eriksson, *Blackburn's new manager. The* Swede, in charge at Sampdoria, will not take control at Ewood Park until the end of the season, *but he has given advice to the* caretaker manager, as if it was needed. "He told us he was pleased with the way *things are going, and to keep on the same,"* Parkes said. "We discussed transfer targets, but no one will be leaving." **DM**

CHELSEA

Roberto di Matteo had some encouraging words for Gianluca Vialli, his Italian compatriot, who seems likely to *begin the game against* Derby on the bench once more and is not pleased about it. But while Hughes and Zola have unquestionably *struck* up a fine partnership in attack, Zola has been man-marked out of the game on too many occasions. Ruud Gullit, the manager, says that this should give more space to the other players, but, in practice, *that has* not been *happening.* **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Callers to Highfield Road early on Wednesday, before the FA Cup tie against Woking, were *told* there was no problem with the pitch and that no inspection was planned. Cue mass exodus from *Surrey. 27 coaches on* an ultimately fruitless trek. Gerald Ashby, the referee, also rang the club and yet, despite being *informed that all* was well, he felt he had no option, an hour before kick-off, but to postpone the game. How much blame were *Coventry willing to* accept? Correct. Not a frozen sausage. **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Jim Smith, the manager, was asked at the pre-season photocall whether the squad numbers *allocated* to his players gave a clue to his first choice XI. "No, but there is a lad at No 17 who is a certainty," Smith replied. Since then Matt Carbon has been pushed out of the side by *Paul McGrath, but injuries to Stimac and* Yates have created a vacancy in the defence for the next month and Carbon plays at Chelsea today as Derby attempt to end a run of six matches without a win. **RH**

EVERTON

Claus Thomsen, Everton's new signing from Ipswich, will make his debut tomorrow. Where is another matter. "Could be midfield, it could be at centre-back, or as one of a back three, depending on how we play." Joe Royle, the manager, said yesterday. Everton's injury list is *showing few signs of improving, with Ebb*rell and Parkinson still missing. Short was able to train, however, and with Watson, Barrett and Unsworth back in contention, Dunne may step down. **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

Tony Yeboah's days at Elland Road appear to be numbered. Controversially, he turned out for *Ghana last weekend* despite being unfit for Leeds. After his return on Thursday he declared himself unfit to take part in a practice game with Scarborough. Halle, Molenaar and Palmer all *played and will return at West Ham after* missing the cup-tie at Crystal Palace. Lee Sharpe also played, scoring the goal in a 1-0 win, but Dorigo is again troubled by a hamstring injury. **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the *manager,* is likely to make further additions to his squad next week having signed Matt Elliott, a central defender, from Oxford United for £1.6 million, a *club record, two days ago.* "If he was going to be impressed it was with the number of players I said I wanted to bring *in,"* O'Neill *said.* Elliott makes his debut against Wimbledon today but Steve Walsh, recovered from a hernia operation, *now requires surgery* on his knee and is out for three more weeks. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

Roy Evans, the manager, has something of a headache as he ponders *a game that will have* a big impact on the positions at the top of the table. John Barnes, Neil Ruddock and Phil Babb are injured and Michael Thomas suspended. It means Jamie Redknapp *returns after a month-long* exile through injury, and the young Jamie Carragher, 19, will make his full debut. *Liverpool* must return to winning ways at home if they are to secure their first championship in seven years. ***DM***

MANCHESTER UNITED

After the failures of their three-*man central defence against* Tottenham, United are likely to resume normal service at Coventry today. Irwin returns to play at left back, with Johnsen and Pallister likely to *play as centre backs, after both trained all* week. Nicky Butt is missing from the midfield again, but *Philip* Neville is back after a bout of glandular fever. "I feel as if there's nothing wrong with me," he said, *although he is still wearing a heart monitor* during training. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Acutely aware that his side *have managed just one* win *in* their last 16 league games, Bryan Robson, the manager, gambles with the inclusion of two new signings, Italian centre half Gianluca Festa *and Slovakian left back* Vladimir Kinder, against Sheffield Wednesday today. Seven points adrift at the foot of the table after having three points deducted for failing to fulfil their December 21 fixture at Black*burn, Robson's men* are in *desperate need* of victory.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

If Kenny Dalglish needed any confirmation of the scale of his new club, it came on his first *official* day in charge. *Dalglish* called an informal meeting of the local media to discuss access arrangements. On his first full day at Blackburn, three reporters turned up, and even the local evening newspaper man *didn't* bother. Yesterday, though, Dalglish waded through a scrum of fans to be greeted by the expectant faces of at least 40 members of the media. Welcome to the goldfish bowl. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The proposed takeover remains as foggy as ever, but, under the caretaker manage*ment of* Stuart Pearce, the existing squad may be good enough to keep Forest in the Premiership after all, subject to the permanent signing of Nigel Clough. This week, the only suggestion that problems lie *ahead* was *made by* Nigel's dad, who doubts whether Pearce can carry his huge workload for more than six weeks. "Anything longer than that and I will doubt his sanity," Clough Sr said. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Mark Bright will leave Wednesday in a £80,000 move to the Swiss club Sion this week. It comes as no surprise: Bright *has been at odds with David Pleat, the* manager, for some time. Back into the squad comes Wayne Collins, the summer signing from Crewe Alexandra whose injury early in the season coincided with the club's *dramatic slump* in form. The return of Collins has given Pleat hope that Wednesday can push themselves into *contention at the right end of the table.* **DM**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Liverpool	23	43	+18	DDWLD
2 Manchester Utd	22	41	+18	WWWDW
3 Arsenal	22	40	+18	LDDWL
4 Newcastle	22	38	+16	DLWWD
5 Wimbledon	20	38	+10	WWLWD
6 Aston Villa	22	36	+10	WLDDD
7 Chelsea	22	35	+2	WWDWL
8 Sheffield Wed	21	31	0	[illegible]
9 Everton	22	28	-1	[illegible]
10 Tottenham	21	28	-5	[illegible]
11 Sunderland	22	27	-8	[illegible]
12 Leeds	22	25	-8	[illegible]
13 Derby	21	24	-5	LLLDD
14 Blackburn	21	23	+1	LWDWW
15 Coventry	22	23	-9	WWWDL
16 Leicester	21	23	-10	DLDDL
17 West Ham	21	22	-8	DLWLD
18 Nottm Forest	22	20	-15	WLDWW
19 *Southampton*	21	19	-8	LWLDW
20 Middlesbrough	22	18	-16	LWLLL

SOUTHAMPTON

Benali and Slater begin suspensions today, but *Dryden* could return after injury and Le Tissier may be in the starting *line-up as Southampton* look forward, with good reason, to the visit of Newcastle United, who have lost all three of their games at The Dell since returning to the Premiership. Graeme Souness, the manager, *telephoned Kenny Dalglish, his former* Liverpool and Scotland team-mate, earlier in the week to wish him good luck — but only from tomorrow onwards. **NS**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland have lost Sam Allardyce, their youth development officer, who has been appointed manager of Notts County. Meanwhile Lionel Perez, the French goalkeeper, aims to end the interest shown by Peter Reid, the manager, in Shay Given, the Blackburn reserve goalkeeper, *by impressing against the visitors from* Ewood Park today. Jan Eriksson, newly signed from Sweden, is expected to make his debut in central defence while Alex Rae and Martin Smith are poised to return.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham have played only twice this year, losing to Manchester United in league and cup, yet have showed a few signs of possible recovery. "If we can get a *good run together, we can still qualify for* Europe," Colin Calderwood, the Scotland defender, said. The club yesterday announced plans to install a second "Jumbatron" screen at White Hart Lane, in the North Stand, which should at least give the fans another perspective on how the team is performing. **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

West Ham have described as "absolute nonsense" reports that they lost £1 million on Raducioiu's return to Español, *although they admit to being out of pocket,* as they were on the recent sale of Dumitrescu. Despite having suffered so badly with his foreign signings, Harry Redknapp, the manager, is still thought to *rate Pierre van Hooijdonk, Celtic's Dutch* striker, above Dean Holdsworth, of Wimbledon, as he continues his search for a goalscorer. **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Ekoku and Kimble are under treatment *for* the *visit* to Leicester, as is Gayle, who missed the match at Crewe Alexandra *on* Tuesday, where *remarks* by Joe Kinnear about Paul Danson, the referee, were an untypical blast from the past, according to Terry Burton, his assistant. "Joe has calmed himself down. We *thought* we were *unfairly treated last* season, but Joe realises now that things have to be said through the right channels," he said. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

CHELSEA v DERBY COUNTY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-0, —, 1-1, 2-1, —, —, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): F Grodas, K Hitchcock, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, E Johnsen, R Gullit, A Myers, C Burley, R di Matteo, F Sinclair, D Wise, M Nicholls, E Newton, N Clement, P Hughes, G Zola, G Vialli, M Hughes.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, M Carbon, J Laursen, L Carsley, A Asanovic, D Powell, C Powell, D Sturridge, A Ward, R Willems, S Flynn, C Daily, M Taylor, R van der Laan.

COVENTRY CITY v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 0-0, 1-0, 1-4, 2-2, 0-0, 0-1, 0-1, 2-3, 0-4.

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, L Daish, P Williams, P Telfer, E Jess, G McAllister, J Salako, N Whelan, K Richardson, B Borrows, J Filan, W Boland, R Genaux, A Willis, S Shilton, D Huckerby.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, R Johnsen, G Pallister, D Irwin, D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs, E Cantona, O G Solskjaer, A Cole, B McClair, K Poborsky, C Casper, R van der Gouw.

LEICESTER CITY v WIMBLEDON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 3-4, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, P Kaamark, M Elliott, S Prior, I Marshall, S Campbell, G Parker, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Taylor, S Claridge, E Heskey, M Robins, S Wilson, J Lewrence, N Lewis, C Hill, K Poole.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, C Perry, B McAllister, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, A Clarke, J Goodman, M Gayle, E Ekoku, N Ardley, D Blackwell, D Holdsworth, M Harford, P Fear, A Reeves, B Murphy.

LIVERPOOL v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-3, —, 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 3-2, 3-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, R Jones, S Harkness, M Wright, J Carragher, D Matteo, J McAteer, S McManaman, J Barnes, P Berger, S Collymore, R Fowler, M Kennedy, A Warner, L Jones, M Owen.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, C Tiler, A Townsend, T Johnson, D Yorke, S Milosevic, G Farrelly, L Hendrie, J Joachim, S Murray, S Curcic, M Oakes.

MIDDLESBROUGH v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 0-1, —, 0-2, —, 1-1, —, —, 3-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from) B Roberts, C Fleming, D Whyte, S Vickers, G Festa, V Kinder, Emerson, R Mustoe, Juninho, F Ravanelli, C Blackmore, M Beck, P Stamp, J A Fjortoft, C Liddle.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge, G Hyde, S Nicol, G Whittingham, A Booth, R Humphreys, D Hirst, R Blinker, W Collins, O Trustfull, S Oakes, O Donaldson, M Clarke.

SOUTHAMPTON v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 1-1, 1-0, —, —, —, —, 2-1, 3-1, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, R Dryden, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, U van Gobbel, N Maddison, E Berkovic, M Oakley, D Hughes, M le Tissier, E Ostenstad, S Basham, D Beasant, M Robinson, J Magilton, S Charlton.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Hislop, P Srnicek, S Watson, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, R Elliott, L Clark, D Batty, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, D Ginola, K Gillespie, F Asprilla, *P Kitson.*

SUNDERLAND v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, —, 2-0, 0-1, —, 1-1, —, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, G Hall, D Kubicki, R Ord, A Melville, D Kelly, D Williams, P Bracewell, A Rae, M Gray, J Mullin, M Smith, M Bridges, C Russell, J Eriksson, P Heckingbottom, S Aiston, D Preece.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, G le Saux, C Hendry, H Berg, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Donis, S Given, N Marker, G Fenton, P Warhurst.

TOMORROW

ARSENAL v EVERTON

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-1, 2-0, 1-0, 1-0, 4-2, 2-0, 2-0, 1-1, 1-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, R Parlour, A Adams, M Keown, S Bould, N Winterburn, P Merson, D Platt, P Vieira, D Bergkamp, I Wright, S Hughes, S Morrow, M Rose, P Shaw, J Lukic, A Linighan.

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, T Phelan, D Watson, C Short, A Kanchelskis, J Ebbrell, A Grant, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Branch, P Rideout, M Hottiger, C Thomsen, N Barmby, R Dunne.

LEADING SCORERS

16: A Shearer (Newcastle United), I Wright (Arsenal).
12: D Yorke (Aston Villa). 11: R Fowler (Liverpool).
10: L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), O G Solskjaer (Manchester *United). 9: E Ekoku (Wimbledon),* M le Tissier (Southampton), F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers).
8: D Dublin (Coventry City), *M Gayle (Wimbledon),* G Vialli *(Chelsea).*

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

5-4: Manchester United, *3-1: Liverpool,* 9-2: Newcastle United, 7-12: Arsenal, 25-1: Aston Villa, 25-1: Chelsea, 33-1: Wimbledon

Odds supplied by Ladbrokes

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 3-0, 1-2, 1-3, 1-2, 1-3, 2-1, —, 2-2, 2-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, A I Haaland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chettle, S Pearce, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, B Roy, S Blatherwick, N Clough.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, R Fox, E Sheringham, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, J Dozzell, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, E Beardsen, A Nielsen, R Allen, J Scales, N Fenn, R Vega.

MONDAY

WEST HAM UNITED v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 0-1, —, 1-3, —, 0-1, 0-0, 1-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks, M Hughes, D Williamson, J Moncur, I Bishop, S Jones, H Porfirio, S Potts, M Newell, S Lazaridis, L Sealey, F Lampard, K Rowland.

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, M Beeney, G Kelly, R Jobson, L Radebe, C Palmer, D Wetherall, L Sharpe, R Wallace, M Ford, L Bowyer, I Rush, B Deane, A Gray, P Beesley, A Couzens, M Tinkler, J Pemberton, I Harte, M Jackson, G Halle, R Molenaar.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights) including Liverpool v Aston Villa

Tomorrow

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday Arsenal v Everton (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football West Ham United v Leeds United (live)

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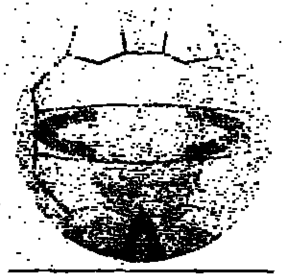
Ravanelli celebrates scoring for his beloved Juventus in typically ecstatic fashion. He may return to Italy after his unhappy exile in England. Photograph: Dusan Vranic

Ravanelli poised to bolt again

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By Brian Glanville

Fabrizio Ravanelli exploded again this week. Middlesbrough were doomed. Relegation was coming. There was no hope of salvation. It was all truly tragic. Just as it had been, for somewhat different reasons, when he left Juventus last July.

Come un fulmine dal ciel' sereno (like a bolt from the blue). Ravanelli used the phrase twice in his torrid and dramatic summer of 1996. The first time somewhat self-indulgently, the second with good reason.

The first occasion came with the Italy team at the start of the European championship. Ravanelli was trailing clouds of glory — even if the clouds would prove to lack a silver lining. He it was, after all, who had scored the Juventus goal the previous month in Rome's Olympic Stadium, in the European Cup final against Ajax. Scored it with an extraordinary shot from the sharpest of angles, after a blunder in the Dutch defence.

He arrived in England — where he would soon, so unexpectedly, return — with an injury to his Achilles tendon. He was clearly unfit to play in the opening match against Russia and Arrigo Sacchi, the Italy manager, left him out, provoking Ravanelli's irrational outburst. How could they do this to him?

In the event, with Russia beaten, Sacchi, surely against his better judgment, brought on Ravanelli as a late substitute. Twice Ravanelli had chances to increase Italy's lead, twice he failed. There seemed no way he could be picked for the second game, against the Czechs, in Manchester, but he was. Could Sacchi have been intimidated? He made five unforced changes, Ravanelli struggled again, and the Italians lost. Out they went.

Early in July, Ravanelli was at home in his native Perugia, where he had begun his career, preparing to go on holiday. Suddenly, he was summoned to Turin by Juventus, to be told by Roberto Bettega, himself a former Juve star and now vice president, that he would be transferred to Middlesbrough for £7 million. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was there. It was the second time Ravanelli had been struck by a bolt from the blue.

In the midst of his embittered lamentations, he might have reflected that his fate was sealed in the 77th minute of that European Cup final. It was then that Marcello Lippi, Juve's manager, with whom Ravanelli had often had his ups and downs, decided to substitute him.

With words and insulting gesture, Ravanelli made his feelings known. "He told Lippi to go to hell once too often," an Italian critic wrote.

Ravanelli was now distraught. "I'd be a hypocrite if I said I wasn't sorry," he said. "I am very distressed. I'm Juventus through to my soul, so you can understand my state of mind at the moment. It's terrible. They chuck me out like someone who isn't any use. I understood they had no more faith in me. And I know whom to thank." Obviously, Marcello Lippi.

"I thought I was a point of reference for Juve," he said. "I feel betrayed, as a professional and as a man. I never thought for a moment Juve could give up someone like me. Not just that. When Gianluca Vialli left to join Chelsea, I felt sorry — but also a touch of pride. I told myself they'd make me captain. I was living in another world."

Still, there was Robson — and there was the money: Perhaps not as much as the reputed £42,000 a week but infinitely more than the £350,000 a year he was getting from Juventus. Of Robson, he said: "He enchanted me. A man of great charisma."

The enchantment, as we know, did not endure. Just a few weeks ago, on Italian television, Ravanelli was letting fly at what he perceived at the inadequacies of Middlesbrough's training. British footballers, he sneered, could run and run, but had no idea how to accelerate at the right time. As for his own training, he had to ask Juventus for regular programmes, to stay in shape.

Italian football journalists would hardly have been surprised; they were well used to Ravanelli's outbursts, not least when things went wrong at Juventus and he found himself in camp with the Italy team. "When things go well, he's fine," says a Turin sports journalist, "but he can't take criticism of any kind."

A psychological quirk, a basic lack of self-confidence, or a consequence of Ravanelli's hard early years as a professional? Who can say. Certainly his path to the top was not easy.

Italian clubs will pick up promising players as young as 13. Ravanelli, by contrast, slogged away for years in the lower divisions. Perugia are now a *Serie A* club, but not when he played for them. He was powerful and brave, but far from the alert, sophisticated, intelligent player he would in time become.

He had three seasons in the third division with Perugia, who sold him to Avellino. Ravanelli could not settle in the southern town and, to the ire of the *Serie B* club, left for another third division season with Casertana. He was improving all the time, however, and when he moved to Reggiana, in *Serie B*, he took off. So much so that, in 1992, when he was 23, Juventus bought him.

Merely as a reserve, it was supposed, but injuries to men like Vialli gave him his chance and he surprised Juve with his dynamic form. In his four seasons there, he scored 41 goals in the championship, five against CSKA Sofia in a single Uefa Cup game, plus the goal that helped to win the European Cup.

Nicknamed *La Penna Bianca* (the White Feather) for his prematurely white hair, he is a modest, emotional, impulsive man and his celebration — shirt pulled over his head after scoring — became famous.

Today he plays for Middlesbrough against Sheffield Wednesday and next Wednesday he will expect to be in Italy's attack against Northern Ireland in Palermo, under the new managership of Cesare Maldini.

A year ago, against Wales on a flooded pitch in Terni that he deemed unplayable, Ravanelli put on an astonishing exhibition of strength and skill, scoring one goal, making another. He talked endlessly, delighted not only by his performance, but by the fact that he had brought a hostile crowd on to his side.

Resentful of a star who came from nearby Perugia, the fans initially jeered him. By the end, they were not whistling but cheering him. "I felt an emotion of incredible intensity," he said. "The real fans shouted 'Clowns!' to those on the terraces. I reacted and increased my efforts a hundredfold. If I was already feeling good, from then on, I felt great."

Just as he did when he began his Premiership career at Middlesbrough with a hat-trick against Liverpool. Since then, he has had a curate's egg of a season, like the team itself. Meanwhile, it seems most unlikely he will be on Teesside next season. He wants to go back to Juventus, but would Marcello Lippi wear it?

Dalglish's comeback turns old friends into foes

By David Maddock

THE most interesting, and indeed significant, contests of the day in the FA Carling Premiership are linked not only by their bearing on affairs at the business end of the table, but by the relationship between the protagonists.

Kenny Dalglish hardly needs any more spice added to his first match officially in control of Newcastle United but, against Southampton, he finds himself in direct opposition to Graeme Souness, an old friend from their playing days together at Liverpool and the man who succeeded him as manager at Anfield.

To complete the trinity, Roy Evans, the present Liverpool manager, entertains Aston Villa in what is indisputably the match of the day. The theme, from all three — and from Villa for that matter — is that victory is imperative.

Southampton's ambitions are those of survival, but Liverpool, Newcastle and Villa all know that defeat could undermine any pretensions they have of succeeding the ominously strong Manchester United as champions. It was a subject Evans dwelt on as he analysed the title contest.

"Aston Villa are right up there in contention for the title. They can have a big influence on it's outcome," he said. "It is a difficult game because they are direct rivals and a win for either side would be important. But really, we have got to stop thinking of it as a game against rivals.

"What we have to do is concentrate on our own results and forget about the rest. We have to start winning our own points. We have been lucky really, because we have stayed top largely because of other people's results. They have dropped points to keep us in it. But now we really have to start putting our own house in order. We have to win matches and that means this game is doubly significant."

Liverpool have struggled to win matches of late, especially at home, and if their house is not put in order soon, it might fall down around Evans's ears.

The same could be said of Newcastle, if not Dalglish. He is under no pressure to win anything at all this season but, if he does so, he will be immediately regarded as the returning messiah by the St James' faithful. He is, in football parlance, on a winner.

Newcastle, though, really cannot afford to lose many more games between now and the end of the season. Six defeats is generally regarded as the absolute maximum, even in as bizarre a season as this, and they have reached that mark already.

Dalglish recognises that the absence of pressure could be significant. "I don't think the ambitions, the expectations here are greater than at half a dozen clubs," he said. "In fact, I think the fans are, if anything, more forgiving than most. If we can learn to relax a little more, then we are capable of doing a lot better. We can try to realise everyone's greatest ambition."

That may be the same old careful Dalglish, more innuendo than straight talk, but victory this afternoon could yet suggest that it will be the same old Dalglish at the end of the season — holding aloft a championship trophy.

BOXING

Brown has capability to revive world claims

NEVILLE BROWN, of Burton-on-Trent, can underline his case for another world title challenge tonight when he meets Willie Quinn, of Edinburgh, ranked No 3 by the World Boxing Organisation (WBO), in Swadlincote (Srikumar Sen writes).

Brown last boxed for a world title ten months ago. He moved up to super-middleweight to challenge Steve Collins, of Ireland, but was stopped in 11 rounds. Brown has not boxed since then but, as he is coming down to middleweight to defend his British title against Quinn, he will be meeting an opponent who is more his size.

Brown is far more skilful than Quinn and also carries an explosive punch. He should stop the Scot by the middle of the bout. Quinn's chin has not let him down as a professional, but when he was an amateur he was stopped in one round by Robin Reid, of Runcorn, who is now the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion.

At 24, Quinn is six years younger than the champion, but is hoping to catch him on the chin, which has looked vulnerable so many times. Brown can, however, take comfort from the fact that so far Quinn has not revealed the kind of punch needed to put him on the floor.

Quinn, too, has not boxed for ten months, but he has prepared himself well because, as WBO No 3, he knows he will move closer to a world title challenge if he gets the verdict over Brown.

SPORT IN BRIEF

THE Italian, Deborah Compagnoni, gained her first giant slalom victory of the skiing season in Zwiesal, Germany yesterday, finishing 1.16sec ahead of Anita Wachter, of Austria.

Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, finished third, to stretch her World Cup lead over the defending champion, Katja Seizinger, of Germany, who fell, by 60 points to 274.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Bobbie Goulding was last night called into the Great Britain squad for the World Nines in Townsville, Australia, from January 31 to February 2. He will replace Keiron Cunningham, his colleague at St Helens.

SAILING: Ben Ainslie, Great Britain's Olympic silver medal-winner in the Laser class, flew to Rio de Janeiro yesterday, where he is to sail in the Brazilian national championships. He will take on Robert Scheidt, who pipped him for gold in Atlanta.

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae begins his attempt to recapture the world championship at the Monte Carlo Rally tomorrow. The 1995 world champion will contest all 14 rounds of the championship in his Subaru Impreza.

BOXING: Evander Holyfield may receive $40 million (about £23.5 million) for a rematch with Mike Tyson, who he beat to take the World Boxing Association heavyweight title, at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on May 3.

SKIING: Adrien Duvillard, of France, was in a coma last night after a crash during training for the World Cup downhill today.

HOCKEY

Teddington bolstered by return of Laslett

JASON LASLETT, Great Britain's Olympic captain, resumes duty with Teddington today as the National League emerges from its winter break (Sydney Friskin writes). He played in the first match of the season last September and then decided to have a rest.

In the twice postponed match against Southgate, Laslett will be one of the key figures for Teddington, who have two new Australian players in their squad, Guthrie and Read.

Southgate, holding third place in the premier division and with the prospect of another home match against Guildford tomorrow, are hoping to make ground on Cannock, the leaders. Several Southgate players, however, have recently taken hard knocks. Sonia Singh twisted an ankle in the Los Reyes tournament in Barcelona and Duthie may not have fully recovered from a shoulder injury suffered earlier.

Cannock entertain Old Loughtonians, who are six points behind and desperate to make up the leeway.

The absence of Halls, who is still serving a disciplinary ban, imposes heavier burdens on Morrison and Robinson in Old Loughtonians' defence. East Grinstead are at full strength for their home fixture against Reading.

☐ Paddy Selman, a former international hockey umpire, died in hospital at Worthing on Monday, aged 82. He was one of the umpires in the first World Cup tournament, in Barcelona in 1971.

Beer match that left captain in the lurch

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

IF YOU want to get thrown out of Sydney Cricket Ground, you have got to do something pretty good. "I know nothing about urinating," Jason Taylor, captain of North Sydney Bears rugby league team, said. "But there was an incident with some tomato sauce where the blokes rubbed it into one another. Some of the sauce got on a bloke's T-shirt. He got upset and I can understand that.

"A bloke three rows back threw some beer over me. I shouldn't have reacted, but I stood up. When I did so the crowd started shouting out my name. That prompted the security guards and they said I had to go." It was all a misunderstanding, you see. "It looked terrible on TV, like I'd been drinking and spilling beer all over myself all night." Perish *la pensée*! "I regret now I went to the cricket." Taylor has been told by the local Wyong council that his services as Australia Day ambassador will no longer be required tomorrow week.

Waugh at a loss

I would like you all to join with me in mourning the sadness of Steve Waugh, that most likeable of Australian cricketers. He has managed to set a record for Australia cricket: he has taken part in 11 consecutive one-day defeats. It began with the pasting from (tee-hee) Sri Lanka, in the Singer Cup, in September. Waugh then missed two wins over West Indies with a groin strain, but rejoined the side in time for five defeats in India. Then followed the gimmicky World Series Cup in Australia and Waugh was there for five more defeats against Pakistan and West Indies. Australia — how one grieves — therefore miss out on the World Series final for the first time in 17 years. "I'm well aware of it," Waugh said when asked about his achievement. "When teams get into the habit of losing, it's hard to get out of it." Some English people have noticed that too, actually.

(Gasp... Quick. open its mouth!!)
Tony Husband

Fisherman's tale

Time for a fish story. One of the most ancient and revered records in American fishing lore is the 41-year-old mark for the smallmouth bass. The poor beast was yanked out of Dale Hollow Reservoir, Kentucky, in 1955 by Dave Hayes and it weighed an amazing 11lb 15oz. But now an affidavit from his guide on the occasion, John Barlow, has come to light. Barlow, it seems, stuffed 3lb of lead weights into the fish before it was officially weighed. But he felt guilty afterwards and filed the affidavit — which was promptly ignored by the reservoir overseers. Now it has turned up again. Barlow, 80, confirms its veracity and Hayes's catch has been struck from the records. Hayes said: "Well, I've held the record for 41 years and had my fun. I won't lose any sleep over it."

All that glitters

What means more to Australia than its proud traditions? Manly sport, patriotism, beating the Poms, beating the world? Does anything matter more than these things? Only money. The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) has decided to ditch that proud and ancient symbol of the golden jumper, worn during 30 years of adventuring across the world of rugby union. The ARU has done a deal worth Aus $6 million with Reebok, under which Reebok can muck it up all they like. The new jersey is a ghastly flashy mess with green-and-white flashes on a gold background. "It maintains the intrinsic and much-loved green and predominantly gold and I believe retains the great traditions of Australain rugby," Jon O'Neill, the ARU chief executive, said. Well, England's own Rugby Football Union won't be selling out like that this year. They sold out years ago. The surprising thing is that Australia was prepared to sell the moral high ground over the Poms for such a small sum.

Playing the joker

I read that the pyrotechnical Bulgarian footballer, Hristo Stoichkov, is to join Arsenal. Be warned: Stoichkov, besides having an on-pitch presence that makes Eric Cantona look shy and tentative, is a practical joker of some cruelty. His colleague at Barcelona, the Brazilian, Ronaldo, was rudely awakened from his slumbers by one of the directors and asked why he was not at training. Stoichkov had told him training was scheduled for the afternoon. Ronaldo, not Stoichkov, was fined. Mark Twain once said that "a German joke is no laughing matter"; the same is clearly true of Bulgarian jokes.

Footing the bill

Zambia is the world's most beautiful country and Zambian football remains a symbol of hope in a naughty world. I learn that 12 players from Power Dynamos of Kitwe have gone on strike. They will not train until they get their boots back. Club officials took away the boots they wear for training, promising new kit in time for the opening of the season in March. The players refuse to train in bare feet. How much did Newcastle United pay for Alan Shearer?

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	5	70	poor	varied	closed	fine	4	25/12
(Spring conditions with slush in afternoons)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	125	145	good	heavy	good	sun	-3	9/1
(Generally good skiing: still sunny)								
Megeve	55	160	good	varied	hard	sun	1	9/1
(Pistes becoming hard-packed in most areas)								
Meribel	60	130	fair	moguls	fair	sun	-1	10/1
(Still mostly good but worn/icy patches growing)								
ITALY								
Cortina	60	115	good	crust	fair	sun	3	10/1
(South facing slopes slushy in pm, mostly good)								
Livigno	95	200	fair	heavy	fair	sun	-3	7/1
(Good snow above 2,000m: slopes very quiet)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	40	285	good	varied	fair	fine	3	9/1
(Everything open and mostly good: some worn spots)								
Klosters	20	130	good	varied	icy	fine	5	4/1
(Skiing remains good at altitude, above 1,900m)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper

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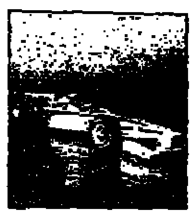

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Hill put through trial by ordeal at Silverstone

SPORT

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FOOTBALL 51

Is Ravanelli poised to bolt once more?

Briton's promising run in Australian Open ends in swift defeat by Chang

Henman serves up false dawn

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN MELBOURNE

MARK BAKER

Dejection is etched deep into Henman's face during his straight-sets defeat by Chang, the No 2 seed, in the third round of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park

ILLUSIONS., illusions. Tim Henman had given a fair performance this week as a man of destiny but when the moment of truth arrived under the lights of the centre court of Melbourne Park, he appeared to be a man of straw. Michael Chang did not just beat him. He sent him packing 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 with unmistakable ease.

In his moment of defeat Henman was slightly tetchy, which is not a bad thing so long as he is honest with himself in the more contemplative moments that lie ahead. "I think by the time I walk out of the door I will have forgotten about this," he said, while at the same time admitting there were lessons to be learnt from such a resounding loss. In other words, he will not have forgotten about it at all, and he will not be permitted to until he beats a player of comparable stature in an important competition.

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This was a big match and it proved much too big for him.

He was vanquished, utterly, and no amount of flim-flammery can alter that basic, undeniable fact. Chang's mastery had the subsidiary effect of silencing the knot of English spectators, many wearing faces daubed with the flag of St George, who were "barracking" for Henman, as the Australians put it. They, too, were obliged to admit that their man's passage through this tournament had been illusory.

After trouncing Andrei Pavel and Guillaume Raoux without dropping a set, Henman was in turn outplayed by a man whose superior athleticism and cunning, revealed the distance between the Englishman's ambition and his capacity to fulfil it. There was precious little conviction in his tennis and, without that quality, no sportsman is ever going to impose himself, particularly when his opponent is committed in the way Chang showed himself to be.

The beery roar that greeted Henman's first successful point, when Chang netted a backhand, brought some light relief to a serious business. After Henman held his own service he then lost the next five games to surrender the first set in 26 minutes of painful self-realisation. He had twice held advantage on Chang's service in the fifth game, and the way he subsided set the tone for the night. The American was too imposing, too experienced on the big points.

In that first set Henman had been outplayed. Chastened, and apparently full of resolve, he launched the second set with some rippling strokes, driving back Chang as Chang had previously driven him. When he broke his service, and won the next game to love, he was 4-1 up; a new man, almost. He even broke Chang again to go 5-3 ahead before losing the next game to four unforced errors. When it went to a tie-break, Chang carried the first three points and won 7-3.

It had been a critical session of play. "Even though I played poorly," Henman said, "it should still have been one set all. In future, if I can get there, I'll be able to say 'let's start again'. I was given my chance tonight and I didn't take it."

Henman talked a good game afterwards, a rather better game, in fact, than the one he had played. "I still have the belief that the next time I come up against him I can win. Even after playing 13 matches in three weeks I feel fresh, and capable physically. I will probably forget about this, and think about the start to the year."

Nerves, he said, played no part in the performance. "I have played against people of similar class before, but I served pretty badly tonight and I never found much rhythm from the baseline. I made life difficult for myself, and made it easier for him. I was looking forward to the occasion, a match under lights on centre court, but I am not going to look into it any more than that at the moment."

Chang, seeded behind Pete Sampras, will now play Andrei Medvedev in the quarter-finals, and is determined to add a second grand-slam title to his list after the French Open he won as a 17-year-old. He hardly saw enough of Henman to make an authoritative comment, but managed to say something complimentary about a "bright future ahead".

Henman, for his part, was grateful for the support of the small band of vocal Englishmen in the crowd, probably no more than 25 in number for all the talk of "Henmania". "It shows that in tennis, and not just in England, I am beginning to make an impact," he said.

He has made an impact, but the support he enjoyed here had little to do with that. The people rooting for him belonged to the floating crew whose interest in sport is temporary, and rooted mainly in the big occasions. There was not as much silly behaviour as one might have expected and there was a funny moment when an English voice suddenly beseeched Henman: "England expects!"

It still does.

Duberry plays the injured party in soap opera

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON
AND JOHN GOODBODY

LIFE at Chelsea this season has often taken on the guise of a soap opera, with interest and intrigue in abundance. Yesterday's tale from Stamford Bridge involved Michael Duberry, the England Under-21 central defender, Gianluca Vialli, the apparently unsettled Chelsea striker, and Paolo Maldini, Vialli's Italian compatriot.

Duberry's leading role in the latest episode of life with the not-so-ordinary footballing folk of west London, was not a pleasant one. He sustained a snapped Achilles tendon in training on Thursday and, after undergoing surgery yesterday, has been ruled out for the rest of the season.

"It is a great loss for us because he was a player who had come in and was doing well," Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, said. "Michael just slipped over and injured himself."

Gullit also attempted to placate the increasingly agitated Vialli, who has not started any of Chelsea's last seven games and, subsequently, felt the need to voice his concern in the Italian media.

"I would hope anybody would be unhappy when they're not playing," Gullit said. "It means they are prepared to do the business when they come in. If they have something they want to say to me, though, they should come and see me."

Chelsea will play an away "friendly" match against AC Milan on February 19 and Gullit revealed that, while arranging the game, he made an inquiry about Maldini, the Italy and Milan defender. "I heard the rumours that Milan were ready to sell a lot of players and I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't ask for Maldini," Gullit said. "I can't imagine Milan would sell him, but I had to ask."

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Spice for Dalglish 51

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday denied reports that the north London club was trying to sign Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgaria and Barcelona striker, on loan.

Birmingham City have signed Anders Limpar, Everton's Swedish winger, for £100,000 until the end of the season. Limpar's contract at Goodison Park was due to run out in June and he would have been able to return to Europe on a free transfer.

The domestic transfer system in England is to be overhauled after the Bosman ruling by the European court. The Football Asssociation is proposing that a professional player who is over 24 years old and out of contract should be available on a free transfer to another club. However, clubs that have signed a youngster will be entitled to compensation for training the player up to the age of 21 if he then wants to move to a new club rather than sign a new, three-year contract with his existing club. The compensation will be assessed by a panel.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "Our feeling is that the new system will bring us into line with the Bosman ruling and also with many other nations in Europe and keep the issue out of the courts. It is most unlikely that this new system will be in place before the summer and it is more likely that it will come into effect in 1998. At this stage it is still a document to be discussed."

Northern lights can illuminate rugby

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT HAS become fashionable in the increasingly sour Nineties to deride not only successful individuals but successful institutions. The tall-poppy syndrome, as the Australians call it, has a particularly English equivalent — the blooming rose plucked of its petals, one might say — and rugby union is no different.

Thus the five nations' championship that begins today in Edinburgh and Dublin is compared unfavourably, every day it seems, with the game as played in the southern hemisphere. We blind ourselves to the championship's virtues and blithely accept that everything in the Australasian garden is wonderful, even when the evidence of the inaugural tri-nations championship last year is less than overwhelming.

It is true that rugby at its best is played in the southern hemisphere, but then what else is new? For nearly a century New Zealanders and South Africans have been playing a more effective, more successful brand of rugby and the Australians a more attractive one. The difference now is that we see it far more frequently, not at intervals of ten years but every season, either in the flesh or courtesy of satellite television.

But not all their rugby is so palatable, so enriched with tries that we need to worship constantly at their altar. We would be far more profitably employed building up the virtues of our own championship, enhancing its enduring competitiveness, its capacity to surprise, its huge popularity and, if the playing standards are distinctly mixed, beseeching our technical staff to ensure that it becomes better.

Never can this be more true than in the year of a British Isles tour. The Lions will take themselves to South Africa this summer and their awakening from a four-year hibernation will act as an additional spur. Indeed, if Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, had his way then the British Isles would be the crowning glory for incoming tour teams on an annual basis.

McGeechan will be in Edinburgh today, paying special attention to the half backs who oppose each other in Scottish and Welsh colours. The Lions manager, Fran Cotton, travels to Ireland to study their candidates, who include the rumbustious Keith Wood, not only the Ireland hooker but also their captain, which, in itself, puts him in line for the Lions role.

John Hart, the New Zealand coach, is among those who admire the five nations' championship but asks why it cannot be developed. That can be achieved not only by improved playing skills but by the admission of new blood — Italy are not so much knocking on the door as kicking the hinges off — or by the sort of bonus points system introduced in the tri-nations series and, nearer home, in the Welsh League.

Judging by the pronouncements from home unions representatives in Dublin yesterday, Italy will have to wait. Vernon Pugh, of Wales, who is also chairman of the International Rugby Football Board, said: "Italy have been told the door is open but it has to be demonstrated over a period of time that they have the competitive capacity to match and beat some of the five nations' sides.

"No one is saying that they have to win, for example, three out of five games but their leading club sides weren't too successful in this season's European competition."

Cotton believes that the southern hemisphere advantage derives from their successful Super 12 series but that is no accident; it has been developing over the past decade, from Super 6 to Super 10 and, in a quasi-professional environment, even before the admission of full-scale professionalism in August 1995. In Britain, by contrast, there has been no preparation for the professional game, political debate still holds centre stage and forward planning is hindered accordingly.

Because of their playing strength and traditions, the five nations' championship desperately needs a strong lead from England and France which, as matters stand, it is by no means certain of getting. Nothing provokes a more positive reaction from the Celtic countries than the assumption that England will roll over them and positive rugby is what the championship needs more than anything else. We have seen it on the club scene and it is time the five nations' reflected that.

FIVE NATIONS'
CHAMPIONSHIP

FIXTURES: Today: Ireland v France, Scotland v Wales. February 1: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland. February 15: Ireland v England, France v Wales. March 1: England v France, Scotland v Ireland. March 15: France v Scotland, Wales v England.

Driven Ashton, page 46
Wales' mission, page 46

Russell determined to make his mark

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN HAMILTON

JACK RUSSELL has vowed to fight on against the "monotony" of being the forgotten man of England's winter tour. Russell, condemned to almost total inactivity by England's decision to use Alec Stewart as wicketkeeper-batsman in the Test side, has played only three one-day matches during the 55-day-old campaign in Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Today Russell appears for his old club, Tukapuna, in an Auckland League fixture — a move designed to give him much-needed match practice. The Gloucestershire wicketkeeper does not rule out a further appearance for the club he played for from 1983 to 1985 if the selection policy does not change.

Russell said: "The only time in my cricket career that I have experienced such a long period of inactivity like this was during my very first England tour — to Pakistan in 1987 — when I think I played 1½ days' cricket in eight weeks. But I was a youngster then, learning my trade, and as you get older it gets harder to be on the sidelines. It has become a bit monotonous. It was great just to get out on to the field as a substitute fielder the other day in Palmerston North.

"I'm in a position where you have two options — give up or fight on, and I am not prepared to give up yet."

Russell fixed up his club match after confirming that he would not be playing in the four-day match against Northern Districts, England's final warm-up match before the first Test in Auckland next week.

England's batsmen, meanwhile, are likely to be denied the chance of taking a preparatory look at Simon Doull, 27, the highly-rated New Zealand fast bowler. Doull plays his club cricket for Northern Districts but the New Zealand management are well aware that he could be a secret weapon in the Test.

Dravid lifts India, page 47

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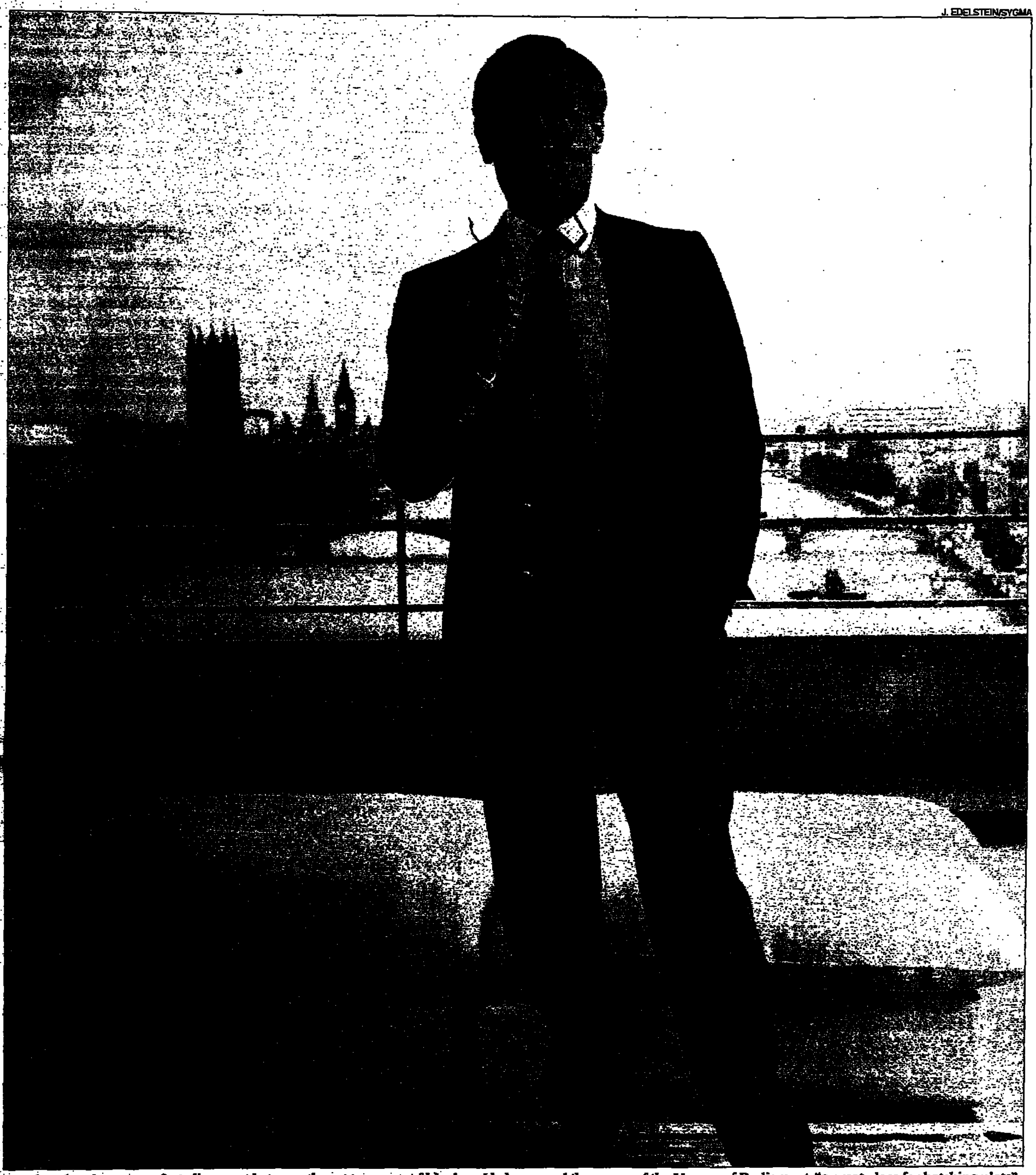
SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

Jeffrey's very private view

When maverick chronicler of London's secret history **Iain Sinclair** asked Lord Archer to show off his riverside art collection, he didn't expect to get a look in. Then the invitation arrived . . .

J. EDELSTEIN/SYGMA

Lord Archer, in near perfect alignment between the art treasures of his riverside home and the power of the Houses of Parliament: "a great place for hatching plots"

I approached Alembic House, Lord Archer's *Lambeth gaff*, with a pistol to my head and hands tied behind my back. As it were. I had promised my wife that I would be on my very best behaviour; *no jibes, no sneers*, no cheap satire. None of the usual kneejerk, formulaic, picaresque comedy. This would be disinterested reportage, a nice blend of *Modern Painters* and *Hello!*. Footnoted gush. Discreet tracking shots across the Archer art hoard, admiring references to the famous Thames views.

I'd put my request in writing, explaining that I wanted to look over the collection and to weigh the pictorial values against the expressionist raids on this stretch of the river by the painters Oskar Kokoschka and John Bellany. I thought I might experiment with the Alan Whicker treatment, tiptoeing across Persian rugs while Archer talked me through the glittering acquisitions.

For a sweetener, the postscript to my letter dropped the name (with her permission) of an in-law of mine, a close friend of Jeffrey Archer's from his *Oxford days. This* is why, where my wife was concerned, I was dancing on eggshells. Her family had no problem in drawing a distinction between the relative merits of blood ties and speculative literature. Their sense of tribal self-interest made the *Mafia look like* wimps with a suntan. Fiction writing was, properly, a kind of hobby: unfortunate, but tolerable if I brought in cash or fame. In essence, it was all exhibition of bad manners. If such matters had to be performed in public, then Archer came *as* close *as* anyone to managing them with the proper style — by divorcing himself from textual mess and running the operation as effectively as any other public company. There was a highly visible product identity and no author. *A trick for which* I felt immoderate envy.

Alembic House, 93 Albert Embankment, is one of London's worst-kept secrets: *anyone who* can pick up a newspaper knows that Jeffrey Archer has bagged the top two floors, and spent almost £2 million refurbishing them. A show home for a social balloonist. Wouldn't you — if you could? If you had the bottle. If you were prepared to expose yourself to all that metropolitan *magnificence*: the Houses of Parliament, the Tate Gallery, the great bridges of London in perfect alignment. You can't get more upwardly mobile without taking on oxygen. This is the ultimate "riverside opportunity", the one the estate agents pay homage to in their Rotherhithe brochures.

The Alembic House lift was *heavily quilted like a soft cell. It* would absorb any cries for help. We were deposited in a panelled hallway, an antechamber with no obvious exit. *We felt as if* we had blundered into the coda of Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*; the lift had been a rebirth and now we had to choose the right door. We scratched and tapped at the panels. Then, all at once, one of them swung back and an attractive young Sloane, crisp and efficient, appeared — *to tell us that*, unfortunately, Archer was away working on a book, and his son William, the art-history graduate and archivist of the collection, was not available to give us the tour, but we could help ourselves to the views in *which we had expressed so* much interest.

Game, set, and probably match; to Jeffrey. He had demonstrated his magnanimity by allowing us (myself and photographer Marc Atkins) to do precisely what I had requested in my letter — ponder the art collection and photograph the splendid riverside prospects. I was in his debt — but he had not presented me with the opportunity to indulge in any form of interrogation, however *bland. Absent, he was immune* to ridicule, while I was obliged to do the decent thing by tactfully listing his possessions. Flawlessly played.

The secretary — personal assistant — retreated *to her gantry*, leaving us to come to terms with this gobsmacking exhibition of wealth and privilege. It would be a strong man who didn't fantasise about having the use of this flat, the low London skies, the glittering river. *A great place for hatching* plots, planning coups, or indulging in cosmological meditation, but a hopeless place for hammering away at the keyboard. How could you compete with the panorama that enveloped you?

I've never been in a writer's home — if you could call this a home — that hit you with such a sense of its separateness. The qualitative difference that Scott Fitzgerald (one of the authors Archer purports to collect) *saw as dividing the rest* of us from the seriously rich. This was wealth as a vocation. I was used to apologetic cribs, part inherited, part salvaged — book wrecks, uncorseted sofas — not so much lived in as resurrected. The writer's life as *an unequal struggle with chaos* theory. Provisional slums awaiting the big advance, the Finnish translation that would furnish a new set of curtains. Archer, a born-again cad, not content with buying his own *furniture, had the chutzpah to* have it made in larger than life size. He'd perch on one of these striped satin thrones like a mosquito on a tiger's nose.

I pondered Archer's indulgence in allowing us to wander freely over his fabulous domain. I had written to half-a-dozen others with a stake in this stretch of the river — painters, archivists, businessmen, keyholders — asking for interviews, intelligence, permission to view. Universal silence.

We were in Archer's debt and *it left us uncomfortable*. Perversely, it was the character who had shown most faith in our project (whatever that was) that we trusted least. The leap *of consciousness required to* calmly evaluate the penthouse was beyond us. We were almost obliged to demonstrate our integrity by throwing ourselves from the balcony.

The spacious L-shaped apartment is on two levels, with the river-facing office/study set above the reception area, and accessed by marble stairs, *flanked with golden griffins* (multiples of the Maltese Falcon). The design is by Julian Dakowski — who also renovated the kitchen at Granchester. The eastern arm of the L faces downriver: the Houses of Parliament on the left bank and St *Thomas' hospital on the right*, with the three bridges (Lambeth, Westminster, Hungerford) diminishing in perfect perspective. Sitting at the end window, sundowner in hand, a tragic poet with a taste for sentimental elegies would have been uniquely placed to watch the *Marchioness* pleasure boat go down.

> ❛This is a show home for a social balloonist. You can't get more upwardly mobile without taking on oxygen. It is the ultimate "riverside opportunity", the one the estate agents pay homage to in their Rotherhithe brochures❜

Archer's collection is "one of the most valuable in the land . . . which some estimate could be worth around £10 million": an assertion of his own taste, displayed in a building which he has paid for with his own cash, and *which he* makes more readily available to students and busybodies (such as Atkins and myself) than the galleries that we have been required to support. Archer's current exhibition can look across the river at the Tate *without blushing. At £10 million*, if that random figure means anything, his holdings are negligible, no more significant than the meretricious trash amassed for Robert Maxwell's posthumous jumble sale. It couldn't be compared, for *example*, with the collection accumulated by the Dublin fertiliser magnate Sir Basil *Goulding* — with his Expressionist portfolio, magnificent examples of Kokoschka and Jack B. Yeats. Archer is more of a Jacobean, an adventurer, a New Man confirming his status by exhibiting a cabinet of curiosities.

But the scale and the organisation of Archer's set — right down to the vases of dying lilies — is one we have previously encountered only in public

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SERIOUS SHOPPING THE VILLAGE SHOP

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

Nostalgia aside, there is little reason why anyone would want to shop in village shops. Unless, of course, they live on a diet of over-priced corned beef, sponge fingers and stale Sugar Puffs. No amount of heart-of-the-community talk can make up for the fact that, for the most part, village shops are poorly stocked, overpriced and no contest for the air-conditioned, wide-aisled pleasure of out-of-town supermarkets.

Different shops have chosen different paths to survival. The most pathetic are those which have gone beyond Ragu and turned themselves into feeble imitations of the urban delicatessen. In shopping terms, they are the equivalent of those early Italian restaurants which served spaghetti, mince and ketchup and called it bolognese. With limp lemon grass and curling parma ham, the owners are like awkward farmhands at the village squire's table, struggling to please the city weekenders. "God, it's so sweet," bray the visitors on first arriving, "we must buy everything here, so good for the commuuunity." In a few weeks, however, they are turning up for the weekend with boxfuls of artichoke hearts and pannetone from some darling city creep called Ottavio. The shop becomes nothing more than somewhere to grab a packet of Silkies *en route* to the Michelin-starred pub-restaurant down the road.

At Wisteria Cottage, East Hendred, Oxfordshire, however, they seem to have found a way forward for the village shop. Wrapped in a mid-morning mist, its protruding window glows with those emergency staples: cereal, bread, and Matey, "the bubbliest bubble bath". Old ladies pulling their trollies, and peroxided teenagers in army surplus clothes, breeze in and out. It looks easily the cosiest place in a very cosy village, not in the least bit threatened by the mega-markets throbbing just a few miles away.

The owner is Helen Noll, a deeply practical, big-sisterly woman in her early thirties, who, with her husband, began renting the 500-year-old shop two years ago. A door behind the till leads through to her house. The kitchen also serves as laundry room and office, and the smell of washing powder and laundered Y-fronts mingles with that of the soup on the Aga. "It's farmhouse soup, which can mean just about anything," Mrs Noll says. "We make it every day, particularly for the older people, who like to take it away for lunch."

On one side of the shop is the post office, a dark, wooden cubicle, with just enough room for the postmistress to squeeze in. This is the focus for all that Ealing comedy-style village chatter. "She's just had her blood check and the baby's due in February, no April," said one woman, discussing her daughter with two friends. Another elderly woman, her head wrapped tightly in a blue and gold scarf, handed a fat letter across the counter, addressed to New York. "I couldn't stop writing this time," she said. "I hope she has time to read it all." "I'm sure she will," the postmistress reassured. Talk of saving the Titfield Thunderbolt and rescuing wee Timmy from the mill pond was doubtless scheduled for the afternoon.

In the fridge are pork sausages brought in each evening by a man in the village who works at Fellers, a butcher in Oxford's covered market. The milk is full fat, unhomogenised and comes from the Mount Pleasant dairies in Oxfordshire. "We call it happy milk," Mrs Noll says. Thick white loaves of bread from Chieveley, near Newbury, sit on top of the cheese counter alongside chocolate sponge and madeira cakes. English wine from a local vineyard and honey from an apiary on a nearby farm are also on sale.

Aside from being an outlet for local English goodies, the shop remains a focus for the village. In the summer it organises a marmalade competition, which is judged by Father Robin, the Catholic priest, and a fund-raising karaoke and pig roast evening after the summer fête. Fairy lights are thrown up round the garden an everyone from the council hous residents at the top of the village t Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and th fast livers of the local racin community joins in. Even J. Priestley would have to have bee in a particularly purple mood t invent this lot.

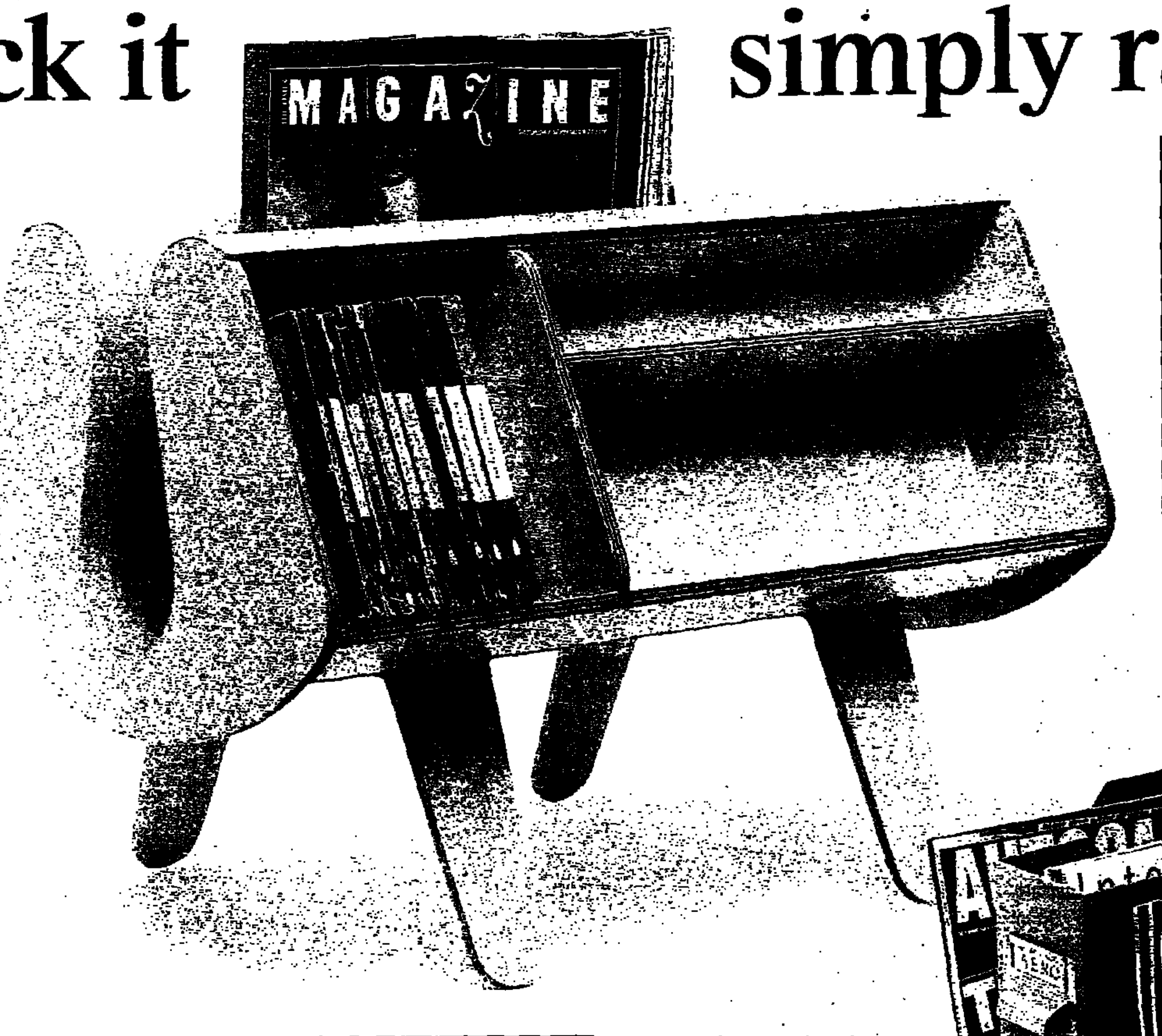
A rustic delicatessen then, bu steeped in sponge-fingered trad tions, this may be the future for th village shop.

Since her arrival as the shop keeper, Mrs Noll has already bee asked to be godmother to one loca child. As her tally of godchildre rises, and it undoubtedly will, and she grows into ever more of an Aunty Bun, she and East Headred will have found a way to cock their villagey snook at the corporate retailing monsters, hungry for their business.

● *Giles Coren is away.*

Don't stack it simply rack it

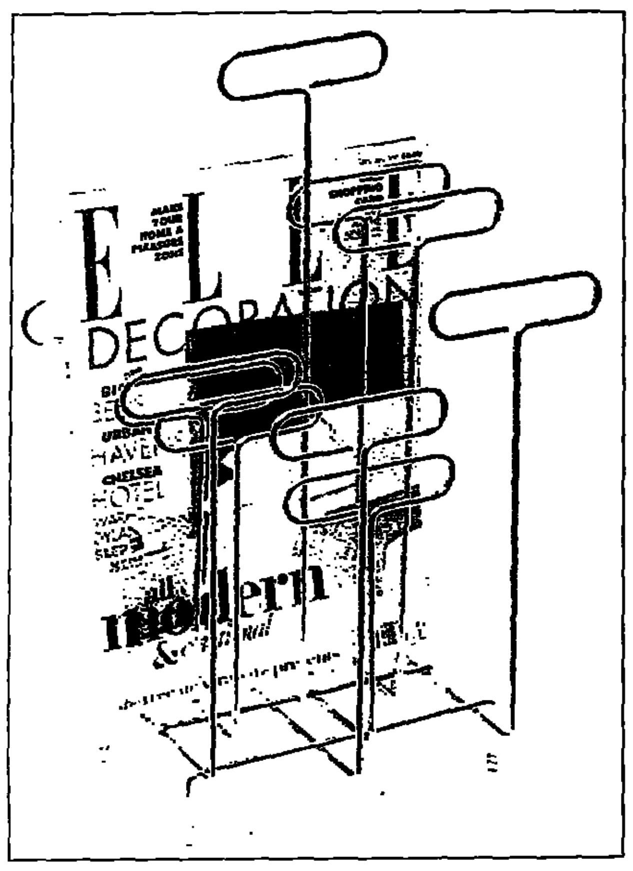
COMPULSIVE magazine and newspaper buying has its down side: you have to live with a tower of messy journals on the brink of collapse and the tricky manoeuvre of extracting the one you want that is always at the bottom of the pile. The solution is a magazine rack — anything from a wire basket to a wooden design classic. Here's a selection of the best. ***Sue Parker***



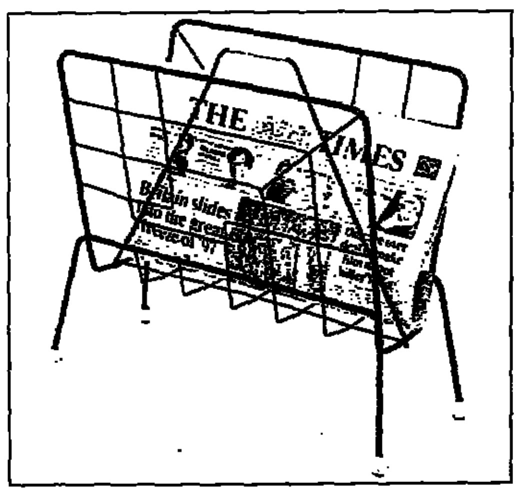
ABOVE: The Isokon Penguin donkey in birch ply, designed by Egon Riss in 1939, which holds books and magazines, £276, from Coexistence, 288 Upper Street, London N1 (0171-354 8817)

ABOVE: Oval wire basket, £7.50, from the Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 2626)

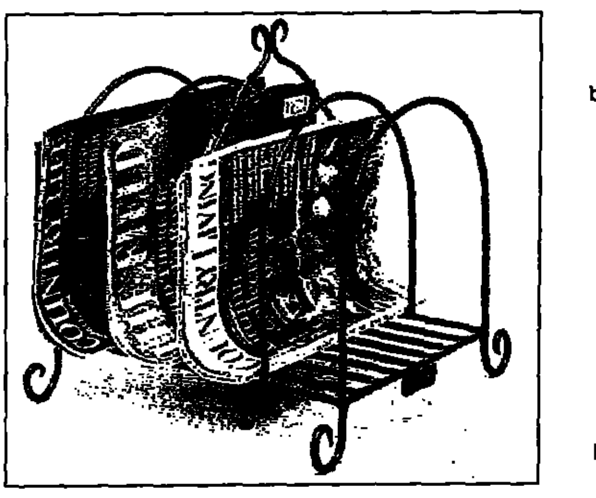
BELOW: Magazine files covered in brown paper, £9.50 each, Aero, 96 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (0171-221 1950)



ABOVE: Minimalist chrome Forest magazine holder, £30, from Wireworks (0171-724 8856)



RIGHT: Original 1950s magazine rack, £12, from a selection at Flying Duck Enterprises, 320-322 Creek Road, Greenwich, London SW10 (0181-858 1964)



LEFT: Wrought iron toast-rack style magazine holder, £34.95 plus £5 p&p, from Bombay Duck mail order (0181-964 8882)

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'This glass cage must be hell for a man of ambition'

Continued from page 1

spaces, hotels or boardrooms (*glimpsed on our explorations* of the City). And that is as it *should be: because the penthouse is the headquarters of a public company. Jeffrey Archer*, his works and thoughts. *You can't sit here doing the* crossword, clipping your *nails, or scoffing a TV dinner.* You are perpetually confronted by the unresting buzz of London, the challenge of all those centres of power and influence — the indifferent, remorseless river.

This glass cage, whatever the indulgence of the toys on the table, the mirrors and the golden birds, must be hell for a man of ambition and unflagging energy who has been excluded from the inner councils of government.

To be the first clown in the land, warm-up act, cheer leader, must be an act of peculiar generosity and well-disguised bitterness. To be left with the surrogate drama of prose — which, with each successive book, more and more material used up, becomes a harder labour. The brutal exposure of inadequacy that is any long-term literary career. Choosing the art that will promote your own special quality of discernment (and also express, by analogue, your personality in *the form* of a pictorial autobiography of developing taste) *demands specialised help: investment* brokers, fabric designers, style consultants. You always end up — because, after all, you are the one who is footing the bill — with much more *stuff* than any one life can reasonably absorb. Which Miró for the staircase? Which Picasso dove shall hang *en route* to the lavatory? Which Lowry should signal the common touch?

Private plunder, the discreet pornography of the tycoon evolves towards institutional benevolence: departments of research and education, *sponsorship facilitators*, career aesthetes, well-bred *diplomats schooled to talk* money. Archer's collection is *still in the primitive stage. It* will be left, so it is understood, *when the time comes — and* after his son William, the art historian, has taken his pick — to Archer's old Oxford college, *Brasenose.*

All museums, libraries and galleries, should be banished to Oxford. Let them be for the exclusive use of those who will walk there. London should be left to the cut-purse brigands, hustlers, ganefs, courtiers, actors, whores, and other creatures of business. It's speedy, crazed, murderous — but never speedy enough. There are too many artificial Deep England villages, too many smoke-free zones, too much repressive hypocrisy. Museums have got above themselves, touting for funds, when they should remember their origins as mere cabinets of curiosities. Boxes of tricks, bits of animal skin, fossils, plant freaks: blood cargo. You can't make this pillage respectable by enclosing it in a fancy public building — with an outhouse for the sale of postcards and embossed pencils.

Lord Archer understood this: *he would scavenge*, bargain with gallery owners, play *the market*. (He also had postcards made of the prime items in his collection. But these were for promotion not for retail.)

I took out my notebook and began, like a bailiff, to list the art works: two Lowrys down at the east end (art for those who don't like art, those who are endowed with a healthy measure of English *cynicism* — the visual equivalent of *Philip Larkin*). A weary and bloodless elitism disguised by technical competence. A 1958 seascape with jetty and trippers like burnt out matchends. A steep flight of steps from 1961. Both genuine, I would say. Cannily modest, with plenty to be modest about.

To the right of this pair, in a position of prominence, is a *much noisier affair*, a Vuillard, a family group. An *acquired set*, not Archer's own family — although the woman, it can't be denied, has something of the hauteur of Mary Archer. Painterly virtues, colour harmonies, balance and composition remove this piece from the genre that comes to mind: the reworked Polaroid.

Moving down the passage that leads to the stairs and the *private sleeping quarters*, you glide along the inevitable anthology of political cartoons. There is the exhibition, beloved by politicians, of a demonstrable sense of humour. But Archer's originals do not feature himself, they are more subtle than that, among the best of their kind: Vicky and Peter Brookes, as well as Steadman and Scarfe, E.H. Shephard, Max Beerbohm.

DAVID GAMBLES/SYGMA

Lord Archer among the treasures in his refurbished £2 million London penthouse

Beyond the cartoons, *at the foot of the* stairs, are a couple of throwaway Mirós — and, at the end of the corridor, above a potted plant, a notable Leon Underwood: *Venus in Kensington Gardens*. This is a rather academic affair in which a nude sits in an open-air café among Underwood's art school colleagues. But it is a totem for Archer, a *memento* of his Grafton Street Gallery ("one of my rare failures"), which featured in his first and most personal novel, *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less*. Russell Flint, Lucien Pissarro, Sisley: works mirrored in the columns of art books gleaming on the low glass tables. Small sculptures that I fail to identify, examples of the almost familiar. Anorexic things that aren't by Giacometti.

Like a blindfold raid by Imelda Marcos on the Royal Academy Summer Show, the collection is *driven but wildly* eclectic — betraying no psychological profile: no theme, no compulsion. It is as anonymous as shop stock, an exhibition curated by a squabble of financial advisers.

We climb the marble stairs to the upper gallery, where the *personal assistant is working* at the keyboard and fielding telephone calls: *"Just make the* cheque out to Lord Archer. He'll see it gets to the right place."

The low ceiling (with telltale damp patch), the wood, the rails, the light from the river: this is a purser's office on a cruise liner. No lightweight furniture. Everything bolted in its place. Uncluttered desk and built-in bookcases, with some small part of Jeffrey *Archer's collection of first editions* — all by one author, *himself*. I've never before seen paperbacks bound in silver, books *bright* and shiny enough to satisfy the most fastidious *of dealers. (Is it* possible to re-read an Archer?)

"His" and *"Hers" desks sit* on either side of the stairwell, backed by a run of *Raoul Dufy* Thames riverscapes, liquid blue sketches *recalling* the posters in the café-bar on the other side of the road. Inoffensive emotional prompts.

The PA is struggling, ringing round her mates for advice — without success. She's been asked to book tickets for a show with a title she can't begin to pronounce, let alone feed into the spell check: *Peer Gynt*. Having suffered through a misguided production at the Barbican, I'm reckless enough to help her out. To employ someone to take care of Ibsen for you must be the ultimate luxury. It goes with the cricket bat inscribed by the English Test team of 1992 to the best captain they never had, and the Max Ernst sculpture (bookend size), the W.G. Grace caricature, the japed Coke can, the rebound set of Dickens with gilt-edges (books as furniture), the lamps and mirrors and *framed* photographs.

The PA was still busy on *the* phone — "Go to Harvey Nichols and you can't *look at a* summer outfit for under £2,000. Honestly, you need at least £50 for a T-shirt" — as we waved our farewells, semaphored *our* gratitude.

● *Extracted from* Lights Out for the Territory, *by Iain Sinclair, to be published by Granta Books at £12.99 on January*

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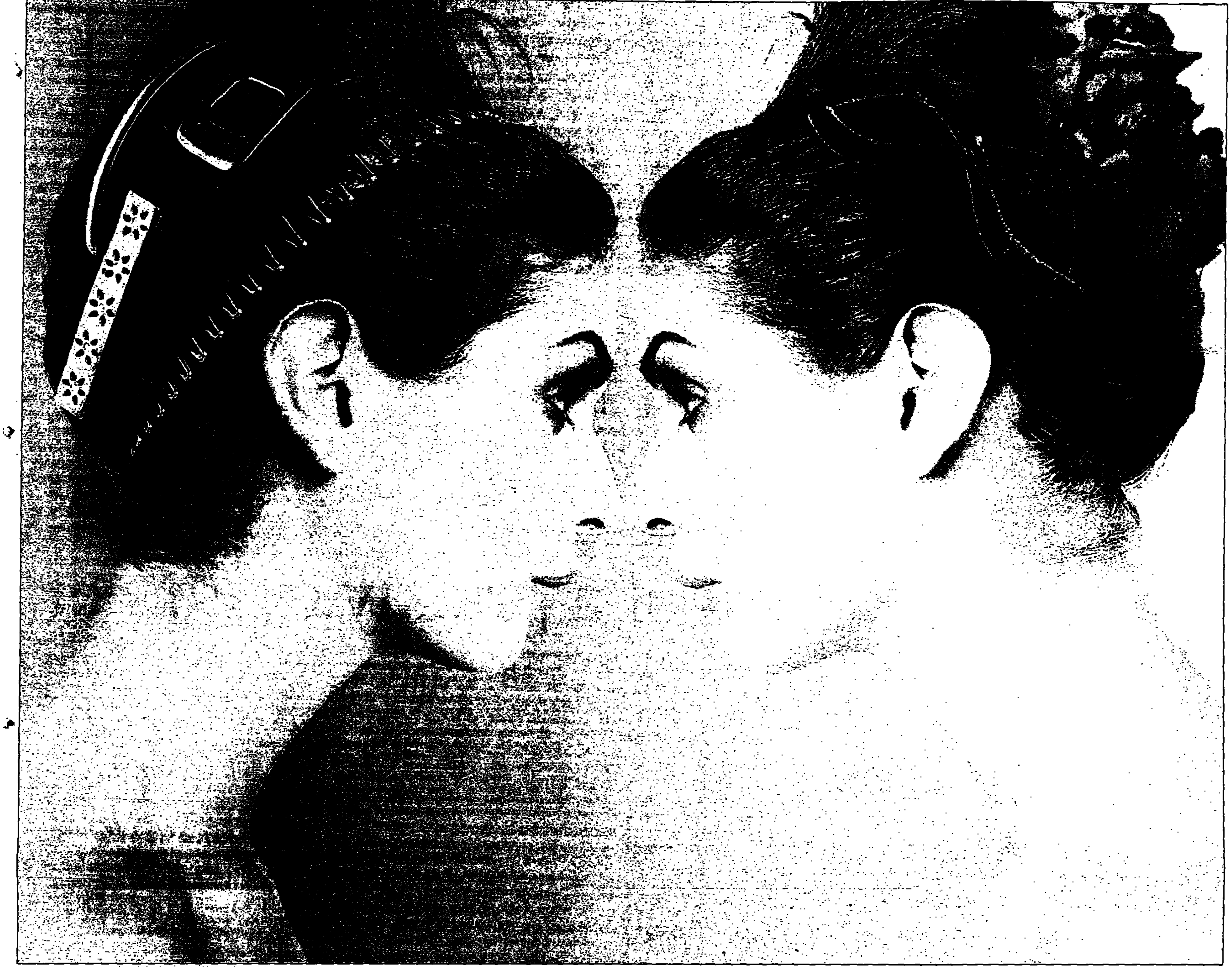
Hair accessories are back, says **Heath Brown,** and there are sticks, combs, clips and slides for every hairdo



LEFT: Zigzag stretch hairband, £2.95. Top: square cut-out gilt clip, £11.95, both Johnny Loves Rosie, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Below: flower clip, £4.99, Accessorize, branches nationwide (0171-313 3000). Back: gilt long-tooth comb, £2.95, Fenwicks

RIGHT: Burgundy velvet trellis hair band, £7.95; Top: small double-rose clip, £9.95, from a wide selection at Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Below: rose hair stick, £12.50 each, Jackson, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-243 9900)

Get a head – get a hairband

Whether you have flowing locks or short-cropped hair, a woman's head will not be properly dressed without the obligatory hair accessory. Long hair can be twisted and secured into elegant chignons using butterfly clips or haircombs. Shorter cuts can be dressed up with decorative slides or barrettes.

Mary Flack, of Fenwicks of Bond Street, says that the resurgence of hair adornments began before Christmas and looks set to be in full swing by the summer. "Sticks, combs, clips and slides in all sorts of designs are a must-have," she says. "The biggest theme is floral."

Faux flowers attached to combs and clips are the perfect partner to the soft feminine frills, sheers and florals of this summer's clothes. Large fabric roses look dramatic, while smaller rows of silk flowers are subtle and romantic.

The catwalks of Milan and Paris showed a large selection of floral hairwear for this spring and summer. Dolce & Gabbana showed large, cloth cabbage-roses teamed with its Chinese and flowered print outfits; Versace punctuated his show with sprigs of foliage clipped, pinned and skewered; and Valentino had orchid-effect additions to high frizzed hairdos. Good examples to be found nationwide are from stockists of Johnny Loves Rosie (0171-435 0089), or look out for loose single fabric flowers from haberdashery departments to customise your look.

The tortoiseshell effect is another big look for more delicate slides and pins. Shorter hairstyles with just enough length to hold a slide look good with a few strips of tortoiseshell. It is also perfect for the beiges and browns of the moment and will work well with blonde, brunette and black hair.

The same goes for the gold accessories that are prevalent now. The shapes shown are modernist and abstract, with belt-buckle designs, matt bars and bubble motifs.

"Beware of the cheap and tacky when choosing hair accessories," says the hairdresser Trevor Sorbie. "Go for the best quality, because cheaper accessories can damage the hair, causing it to break off. And always check that there are no sharp edges on combs or slides."

For thicker hair, Sorbie suggests using long-prong combs or one-prong pins. For finer hair it is better to use hair slides that lock into place. Styles should have a feeling of being loose and free while still being securely pinned.

Zigzag hair bands are the best way to keep a mass of over-unruly hair in place, but stay clear of solid hairbands and Alice bands in thick velvet or coloured plastic. Elastic hair "bobbles" are still around but avoid the "scrunchie".

The new dressed-up hair is feminine, subtle and sophisticated.

Photographs by
Richard Burns.
Hair and make-up by
Sally Kvalheim.
Styling by
Amandip Uppal.

ABOVE: Tortoiseshell hair band, £9.99, Oasis, selected branches nationwide (0171-452 1000)

Before hair band: (left) circle clip, £3.99 (for two), Next, branches nationwide (0116-284 9424); (right) small clip, £9.95, Fenwicks, as before

Behind hair band: (left) two matching slides, £11.95 (for four); (right) small bull dog clip, £2.50 (for three), both Miss Selfridge, branches nationwide (0181-910 1359)

THREE OF A KIND

The short macintosh is a springtime essential. It is a handy coverall that evokes the romance of rainy days in Paris, with a twist of Audrey Hepburn 1950s chic. H.B.

FAR LEFT: Stone double-breasted mac, £138, from Jigsaw, 126 New Bond Street, W1, and selected branches nationwide (0171-491 4484). ***MIDDLE:*** *Black waterproof gaberdine mac,* £48.50, from the La Redouté catalogue (available from 0500 777777). **LEFT:** White nylon foldaway mac, £19.99, from the Empire catalogue (available from 0345 200400)

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q I want to plant an evergreen flowering climber on a north-facing, pebble-dashed wall, but the only ones I can find in books are *Berberidopsis corallina* and *Pileostegia viburnoides*. Would either be suitable? — M. Okola, Headington, Oxford.

A *Berberidopsis* is on the tender side and too unreliable for such a purpose. *Pileostegia*, which is in the hydrangea family, would succeed, but it is slow and you would need to be patient. It has good, evergreen leaves and is self-clinging by means of aerial roots. It appreciates shelter. In time, it will build into generous billows of foliage on the wall, rather as the deciduous climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris* does. On a pebble-dashed wall, aerial roots, as found in *Pileostegia* and ivy, can find their way into surface cracks and let in water, so be sure the surface is in good order before using these plants.

Deciduous alternatives include climbing roses or the Virginia creeper look-alike *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Veitchii', which clings by harmless suckers.

Q My son has a 'James Grieve' apple which bore only 12 apples this year. It has two spindly side shoots, with a bulge around the base, just above ground level. What is the answer? — Rev. C.W. Earle, Ware, Hertfordshire.

A It sounds as if the tree could do with some formative pruning, to encourage a proper branch structure. But why is it growing so weakly? I suspect that the bulge is the graft point. If the graft is incomplete, the growth above will be weak. It may be that the graft was not properly formed when the tree was purchased. Or it may be that the graft has partly broken open due to inadequate staking. Significant bulging suggests there is a fault in the graft. If so, you will have to buy a new tree and start again.

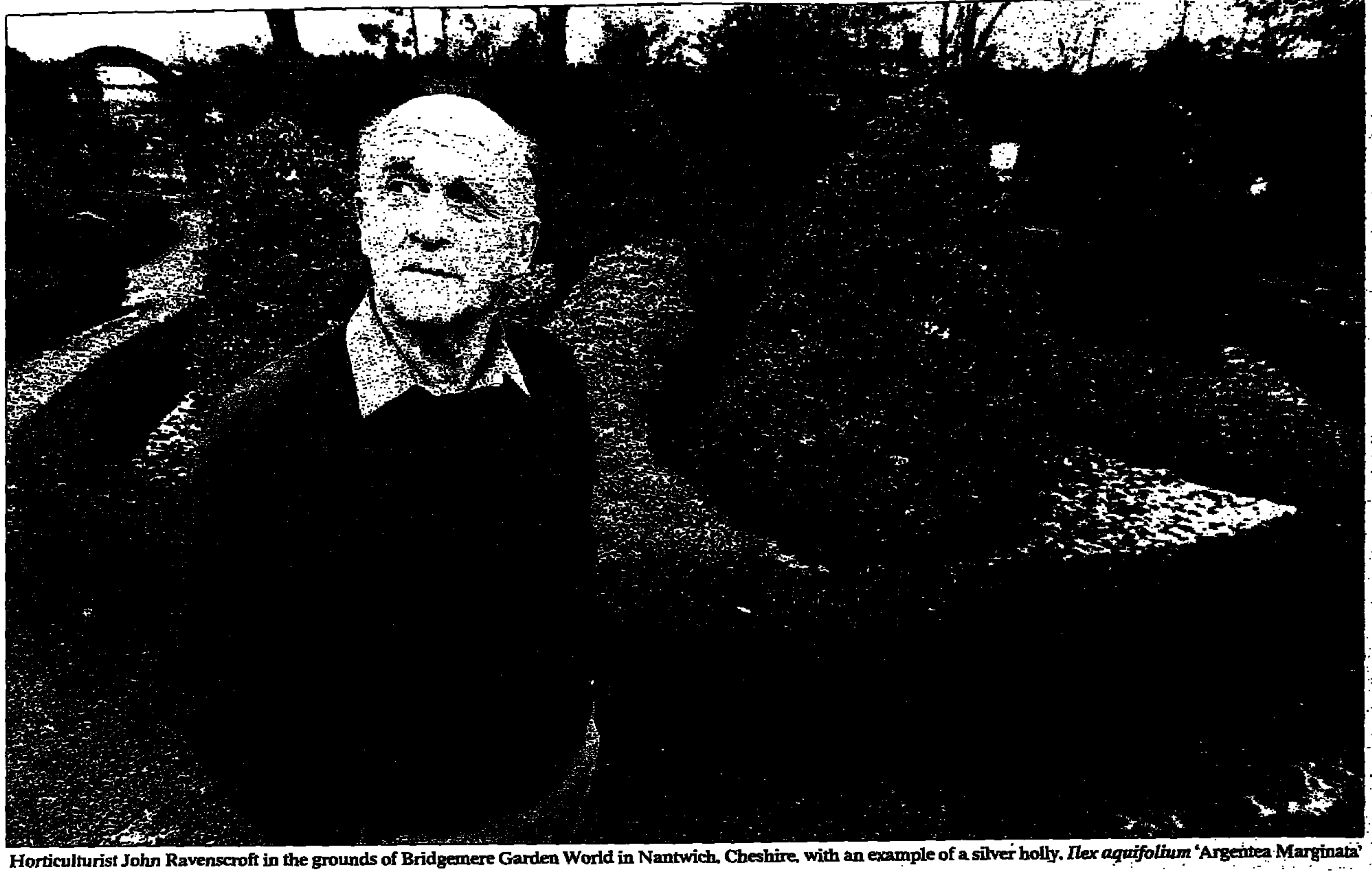
Q I planted 500 crocuses to brighten up the spring garden. Five weeks later I found that mice had eaten the lot. Do you think a dusting with sulphur at planting would deter the mice? I live in the country and could not hope to eliminate mice by trapping, as E.A. Bowles suggests in his book *Crocus and Colchicum*. — J.M. Hughes, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

A By all means try sulphur. Bowles also cites a Flemish text of 1614 showing mice eating crocuses, so the problem is as old as they come. Rubbing the corms in paraffin-soaked sand works in some cases. Crocuses can be protected by setting fine wire mesh over the corms and under the turf, but this is only practical in small areas. A cat helps, of course.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

Nigel Colborn welcomes the renewed interest in holly, that Victorian garden and park favourite

CHRIS LOUFTE



Horticulturist John Ravenscroft in the grounds of Bridgemere Garden World in Nantwich, Cheshire, with an example of a silver holly, *Ilex aquifolium* 'Argentea Marginata'

Return of a prickly customer

For serious gardeners the past century has left a rich, if neglected, legacy. Evergreens of all kinds have been cherished since pre-Roman days — how else can you ensure winter structure and interest? — but Victorians had a special love for them, specifically holly.

More new forms and varieties of holly appeared in the 19th century than ever before: the wealthy planted their estates with them and city philanthropists profiled public parks with as many members of the genus *Ilex* as possible.

After two world wars, however, fashions changed and conifers, mostly from North America, began to supplant the holly. For decades, the staggering range of *Ilex* species and varieties declined, replaced by thujas, cypresses, junipers and the monstrous leylandii hedge. Then came heather and conifer beds, and even the lazy gardener's dream turned into nightmare by the 1980s on realising how awful they looked.

Thankfully, those Victorian hollies proved to be durable, surviving in old parks and gardens and propagated by a few devotees. Just as well, because one such specialist, John Ravenscroft, the founder of Bridgemere Garden World, points out that today's discerning gardeners abhor conifers and are turning to holly. He should know, he grows 30,000 of them every year in Cheshire and is expanding his production.

"All gardens need evergreens," he says, "but holly has such big advantages over conifers. Greatest of these is the holly's amazing power of recovery." Conifers cannot regenerate and if pruned too hard, will be ruined. Holly, however, benefits from pruning, producing vigorous young growth.

Hollies will also tolerate poor drainage better than conifers. This is especially important in the gardens of new houses, Mr Ravenscroft says. But the biggest advantage of hollies is that they are much more versatile. "You can grow them as large trees, clip them to any size or shape for topiary or formal hedges, plant them to create an informal, sound-deadening, impenetrable and highly decorative screen," he says.

Hollies are infinitely variable. There are varieties such as *Ilex aquifolium* 'Pendula' that weeps like willows, others such as *I. aqu.* 'Hascombensis' that forms an upright exclamation mark, and *I. aqu.* 'Bacciflava', whose outline is pyramidal.

The naming of many of the older varieties is riddled with confusing Latin and based on the classification by the plantsman John Claudius Loudon in the 1840s, when such nomenclature was fashionable. The name *altaclerensis*, for example, refers to the Highclere estate in Hampshire, where the cross between *I. aquifolium* and *I. perado* was first developed.

Most daunting of these names is the silver hedgehog holly *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ferox Argentea', a tongue-numbing mouthful, but at least one is saved the horror of such modern plant monickers as 'Nylon Ruffles' or 'Sexy Rexy'.

Ilex is a large genus, with wild species in every continent except Australasia. Even island groups such as Madeira and the Canaries have their native hollies, each distinctive and many useful for breeding hybrids. There are tender species such as *I. cornuta*, a Korean shrub with pointed, prickly leaves and huge red berries; small shrubs such as the unholly-like Japanese *I. crenata*, whose berries are black; and deciduous kinds, such as the strange *I. verticillata*, which presents winter berries without a leaf in sight.

The most widely developed, and the most decorative garden varieties have almost all been raised either from the common English holly *I. aquifolium* or the closely related hybrid *I. altaclerensis*.

Mr Ravenscroft is unequivocal about his choices. "The best for foliage is 'Hodginsii'," he says. "It keeps its gloss in winter better than any others." Being an *altaclerensis* variety, it might be fractionally less hardy than wild English holly, but it thrives in my Lincolnshire garden along with *I. alt.* 'Wilsonii', whose big, glossy leaves are a lighter shade of green and has the advantage of being female and, therefore, berry-bearing.

Berries are important, Mr Ravenscroft says, but varieties that bear too heavily often suffer leaf-drop the following season, and that makes them unsightly until they recover — a good argument, I suggest, for planting males and females together, because apart from the need for fertilisation, the foliage on the male is possibly more dependable. Or choose a variety that bears moderate berry crops, Mr Ravenscroft advises.

Tentatively, I suggest another of my favourites, *I. alt.* 'Belgica Aurea', with its oval, nearly thornless leaves, each boldly edged in gold — a wonderful contrast for the red berries. Mr Ravenscroft agrees. "It's a nicely pyramidal tree, too," he says, "but the absolute best leaf and berry combination is 'Handsworth New Silver', whose leaves are neatly marked with silver edges and contrasting dark purple new stems."

"One of the downsides of holly is weeding among fallen leaves," he says. "It's agony." But perhaps the biggest disincentive is that when you buy a holly tree, you appear to get little for your money." A 2ft-tall holly in most garden centres will cost about the same as a 10ft cherry or crab apple, so the impression is of poor value. But hollies are not slow growers.

"When you plant a holly hedge," Mr Ravenscroft says, "select 2ft 6in plants and set them at a 45-degree angle to the ground. That way, the branches will grow up so thickly that you will get an impenetrable, thief-proof barrier. And, should someone drive a car through it, remember holly's power of recovery."

Three hundred years ago, the diarist John Evelyn was horrified when his guest, Tsar Peter the Great of Russia, borrowed a horse and used his 400ft-long holly hedge for jumping practice, wrecking it in the process. Within a season, however, it was well on the mend, inspiring him to write: "It mocks at the rudest assaults of weather, beasts, or hedgebreakers."

● *Bridgemere Garden World, Bridgemere, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7QB (01270 521100).*

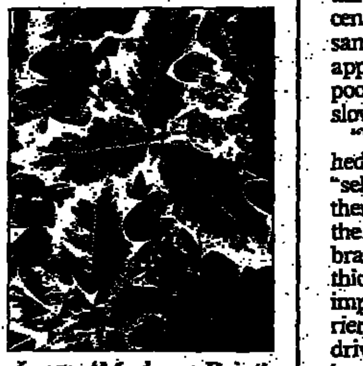
MOST POPULAR HOLLIES

■ **Green foliage:**
Ilex altaclerensis
'Hodginsii' (male). Superb gloss on smooth leaves.
***I. alt.* 'Wilsonii' (female). Modest berry-cropper, large leaves with short prickles.**

■ **Golden variegation:**
***I. aquifolium* 'Madame Briot' (female). Classic holly-leaf shape with strong gold leaf edge. Young shoots burnish in winter. Perfect with red berries.**
***I. alt.* 'Belgica Aurea'. Almost smooth, long, oval leaves with narrow gold margins, moderate cropper.**

■ **Silver variegation:**
***I.* 'Handsworth New Silver' (female). Longish leaves, narrow silver margins, purple bark, moderate cropper.**
***I. aqu.* 'Ferox Argentea' (male). Prickly foliage, streaked in silver. Prolific pollinator, so good to plant with females.**

■ **Interesting shapes:**
***I. aqu.* 'Green Pillar'. Forms a perfect column, wider at base than tip. Good berries, good green leaves.**



I. aqu. 'Madame Briot'

***I. aqu.* 'Myrtifolia'. Tiny, deep green, narrow leaves on small trees. Upright habit.**
***I. aqu.* 'Pendula'. Inclined to overdo its fruiting, but a graceful weeping shape.**

■ **Berries: *I. alt.* 'J.C. van Tol'. Heavy cropper, good, dark green leaves. Inclined to over crop and, therefore, suffer leaf drop in subsequent season.**
***I. aqu.* 'Bacciflava'. Yellow berries on a pyramid-shaped tree.**

Drama among a winter landscape

■ ***Rydal Hall, Rydal, Ambleside,* Cumbria (01539 432050)**

Sign-posted off A591 two miles north of Ambleside. Open daily 9am-dusk. Voluntary donations

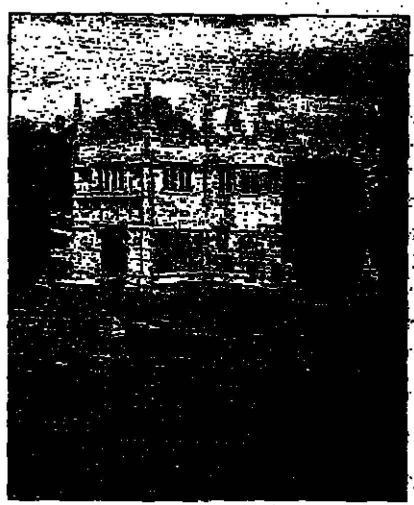
The William Wordsworth shrine at neighbouring Rydal Mount is better known than this, one of the gardens by the Lake District's most distinguished designer, Edwardian Thomas Mawson. Mawson's priority of designing gardens that progressed from formality around the house to areas of more informal plantings of trees and shrubs, merging into woodland, is evident here during winter. Sweeping stone steps descend from the house to lawns with formal beds. But the effect of architectural formality is accentuated by its contrast with rugged wooded hills and the stream that pours down waterfalls. The garden has undergone restoration since the house was taken on by the Diocese of Carlisle.

■ **Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall (01208 73320)**

Off B3268, A38 and A30, two miles southeast of Bodmin. Open daily during daylight. Free to end Feb, then £3

This is the time to enjoy one of the National Trust's most visited gardens in the southwest. And while you may miss the great banks of colour that start in spring, it is during winter that the stone house, church and gatehouse are most dramatically shown off in their garden and park setting. From the main woodland garden, you look down over the granite buildings and great drums of yew, and it is also possible to appreciate the skill with which trees and shrubs are grouped. And although Lanhydrock does not enjoy the extremely mild conditions of Cornwall's southern coastal gardens, even in January the signs of flowering activity are often beginning.

OPEN THIS WEEKEND



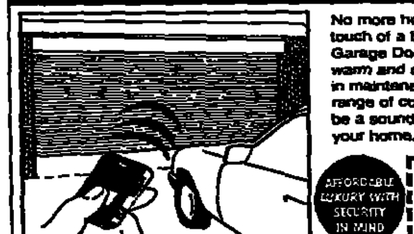
Lanhydrock's magnificent gatehouse

■ **Belsay Hall, Belsay, near Newcastle upon Tyne (01661 881636)**

About 14 miles northwest of Newcastle via A696. Open daily 10am-4pm to end of March, then 6pm. £3, children £1.50

The full dramatic potential of Belsay — built during the early 19th century with stone quarried on a site made into a garden of rocky ravines — has maximum effect on a crisp winter's day. And the 30 acres have much else to offer including a winter garden and the walk which winds through woods containing majestic conifers and along the lakeside — with constant views to the symmetrical house. With contributions from the early 19th century when the balance of garden and parkland was first established, to later in that century when exotic tree specimens were among the additions, and a sympathetic restoration by English Heritage, Belsay is now an intriguing example of gardening history.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



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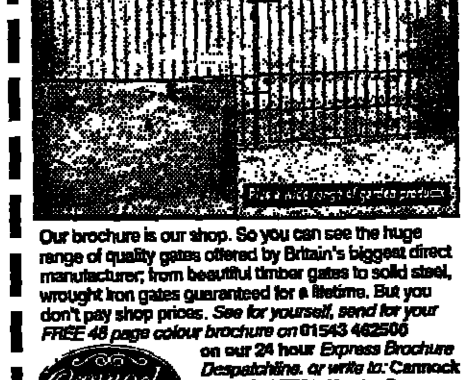

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Where you can let your dream garden take seed

If you want a beautiful summer or autumn garden, you'll need to order seeds now, says **Stephen Anderton**

There are eight or more leading seed suppliers in Britain, each sending out enticing catalogues, and you may be wondering how to choose between them. The differences are considerable.

To get the best when buying seeds by mail order you need to be certain about what kind of plants you want and which are the specialist suppliers.

Different companies have different ranges. Unwins, for example, is known for its flowers, especially sweet peas, though it sells some vegetables, too. Marshalls, owned by the Unwins group, specialises in vegetables but sells the kind of flowers you might grow on an allotment for cutting or as bedding plants, and has increased its catalogues to two a year, to catch the autumn market. Suttons has a foot in both the flower and vegetable camps, with a few shrubs and perennials as well.

All the companies are keen to keep and increase their share of sales and, therefore, like to dabble in most areas of plant growing.

Unwins is keen to sell specialist bulbs but, because it is a sweet pea specialist, has already sent out an autumn catalogue to mailing-list customers who want to get their sweet pea seeds planted in winter.

Competition is fierce and seed companies are not on the sweetest terms. Most told me that their aim is to have about 100 new additions to the catalogue every year, which is good in that it brings in new varieties but depressing in that many old favourites are all too often consigned to the scrap heap of fashion.

Seymour's Seeds, which introduces 100 new additions a year, claims to have the keenest prices, and emulates the John Lewis "never knowingly undersold" policy, so if a customer finds one of the company's items cheaper elsewhere, they will receive a free packet of seeds and a credit voucher to the value of the packet.

Many of the "new" varieties are bred by wholesale seed growers, who supply the seed-selling companies. Martin Thrower, the horticultural manager of Thompson & Morgan, which has a plantlet offshoot in Guernsey, reckons that of its 100 new additions every year, 15 will be bred by themselves — which Mr Thrower claims is a high proportion within the industry — 35 by wholesale breeders and 50 by specialist growers, breeders and the bigger garden nurseries.

However, the time taken to develop a new variety is four to five years, so even 15 new plants a year means an important and costly research commitment.

To some gardeners here, the surprising thing is that behind the packing sheds of the British seed suppliers are no great fields emblazoned in living colour: most seed is grown abroad, in New Zealand, Africa, India and other parts of Europe, and in climates where two generations of seed can be grown in one year, a double cropping which keeps the development time of a variety down to four to five years.

Registration of new varieties takes time, too. "Flowers are easy," Mr Thrower says, "but vegetables are very, very slow." He cites EC rules as one of the reasons.

Despite all the problems, Unwins is now selling seeds over the counter in 21 countries, including every state in America, and in Russia, where flowers for drying are particularly popular.

Among the many seed catalogues, Thompson & Morgan's stands out as an exception. It offers flowers and vegetables but also a range of exotic trees, shrubs and houseplants. It is often the first port of call for eager gardeners wanting to grow something a little more unusual from seed.

The Thompson & Morgan catalogue is glossy and its distribution is immense; in millions rather than hundreds of thousands, as with other seed suppliers. For 20 years Thompson & Morgan has distributed an American catalogue, from its New Jersey office, which contains the same range of flowers as in the British catalogue but also a selection of vegetables specially adapted to American tastes and climates. All the plants offered are marked with a hardiness zone rating, a system which is generally used across America.

This winter sees the arrival of another Thompson & Morgan office in Arras, France, and a catalogue containing plants from the British catalogue.

In the Thompson & Morgan catalogue you can also find the latest fashionable darlings of the hardy plant world, such as the wonderful verdigris-blue *Cerinthe major* 'Purpurascens' (which seems to be much hardier than the plain green form), alongside the regular stock-in-trade pansies, busy lizzies and geraniums.

But the catalogue also offers things such as baobab trees, magnolias, various edible passion flowers, and cycads.

If you are looking for something unusual to try, the best alternative to Thompson & Morgan, apart from the seed lists of specialist suppliers such as the Hardy Plant Society and Alpine Garden Society, is Chiltern Seeds, a small family firm in Cumbria. Its catalogue has no pictures, no glitz, but has at least 300 new additions every year.

Where else do you find 70 species of *eucalyptus* tree, 30 aquilegias, dozens of different cacti, 50 sweet peas (including the wild, heavily-perfumed *Lathyrus odoratus*), witch hazels, and the deceptively beautiful "murderous poisoner" *Boophone disticha*?

Stephen Anderton has been recognised as the top newspaper writer for 1996 by the Garden Writers' Guild. It is the second year in succession that he has won the award.

MAIN SEED SUPPLIERS

■ Britain's larger seed companies include:

Samuel Dobie & Sons, Broomhill Way, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QW (01803 616888).

D.T. Brown & Co, Station Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 7HX (01253 882371).

W.W. Johnson & Son, London Road, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8AD (0800 614323).

S.E. Marshall and Co, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 583407).

Mr Fothergill's Seeds, Gazely Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 751161).

Seymour's Selected Seeds, Admail 962, Farm Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1TD (01481 65270).

Suttons Seeds, Hele Road, Torquay, TQ2 7QJ (01803 614455).

Thompson & Morgan (UK), Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (01473 688821).

Unwins Seeds, Mail Order Dept, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4ZZ (01945 588522).

Time to get your seeds now

■ Smaller suppliers include:

Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7BP (01229 581137).

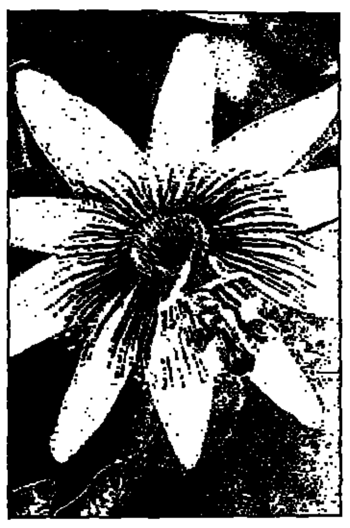
Plant World Botanic Gardens, Seed Dept (PF), St Marychurch Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 4SE (01803 872939).

■ Many of the smaller suppliers are listed in *The Plant Finder* (RHS, £11.99, ISBN 0 951 21618 X), from all good booksellers.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

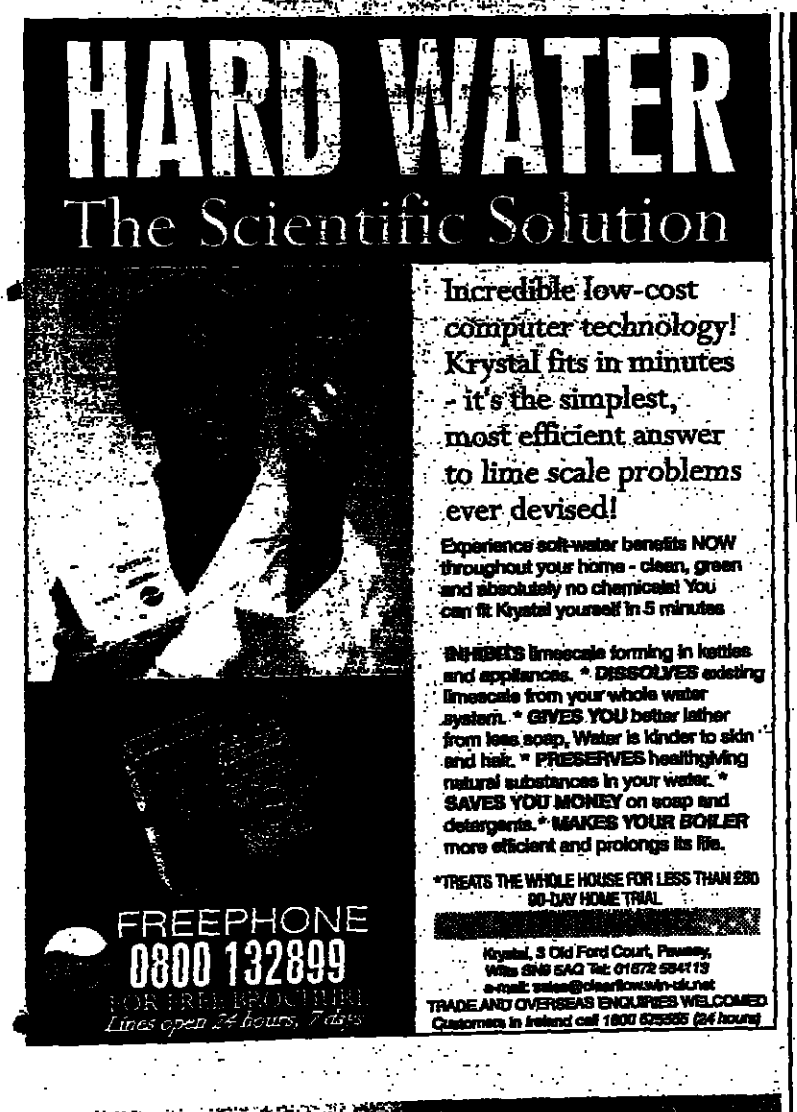
Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens' from Thompson & Morgan

Aquilegias are good for arrangements (T&M)



Semi-exotic *Passiflora caerula* (T&M)

Hamamelis mollis from Chiltern Seeds



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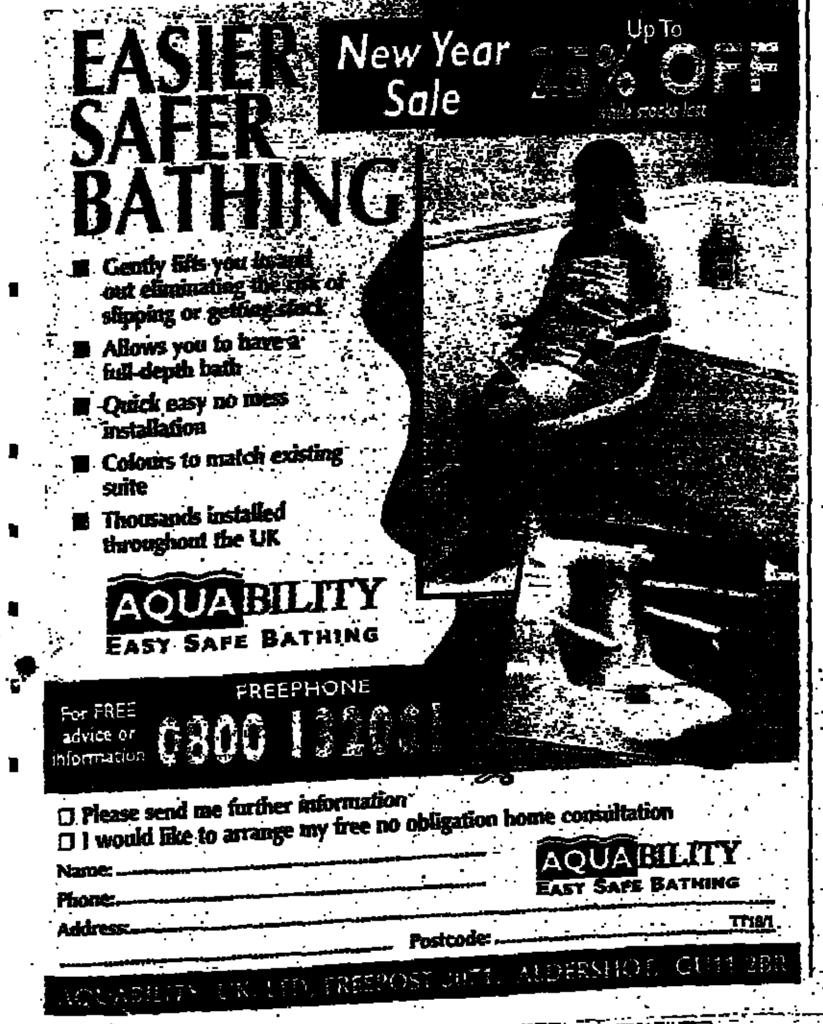

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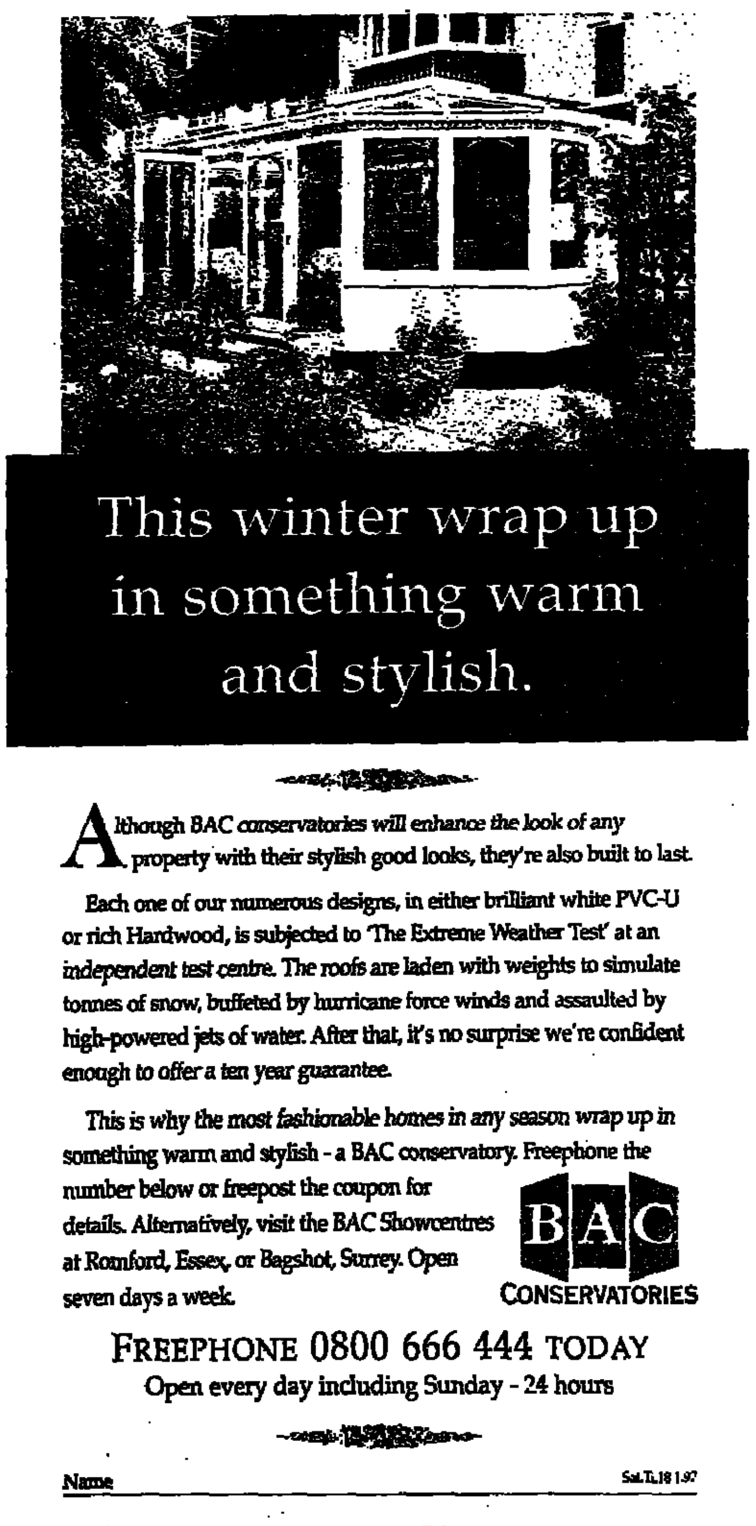

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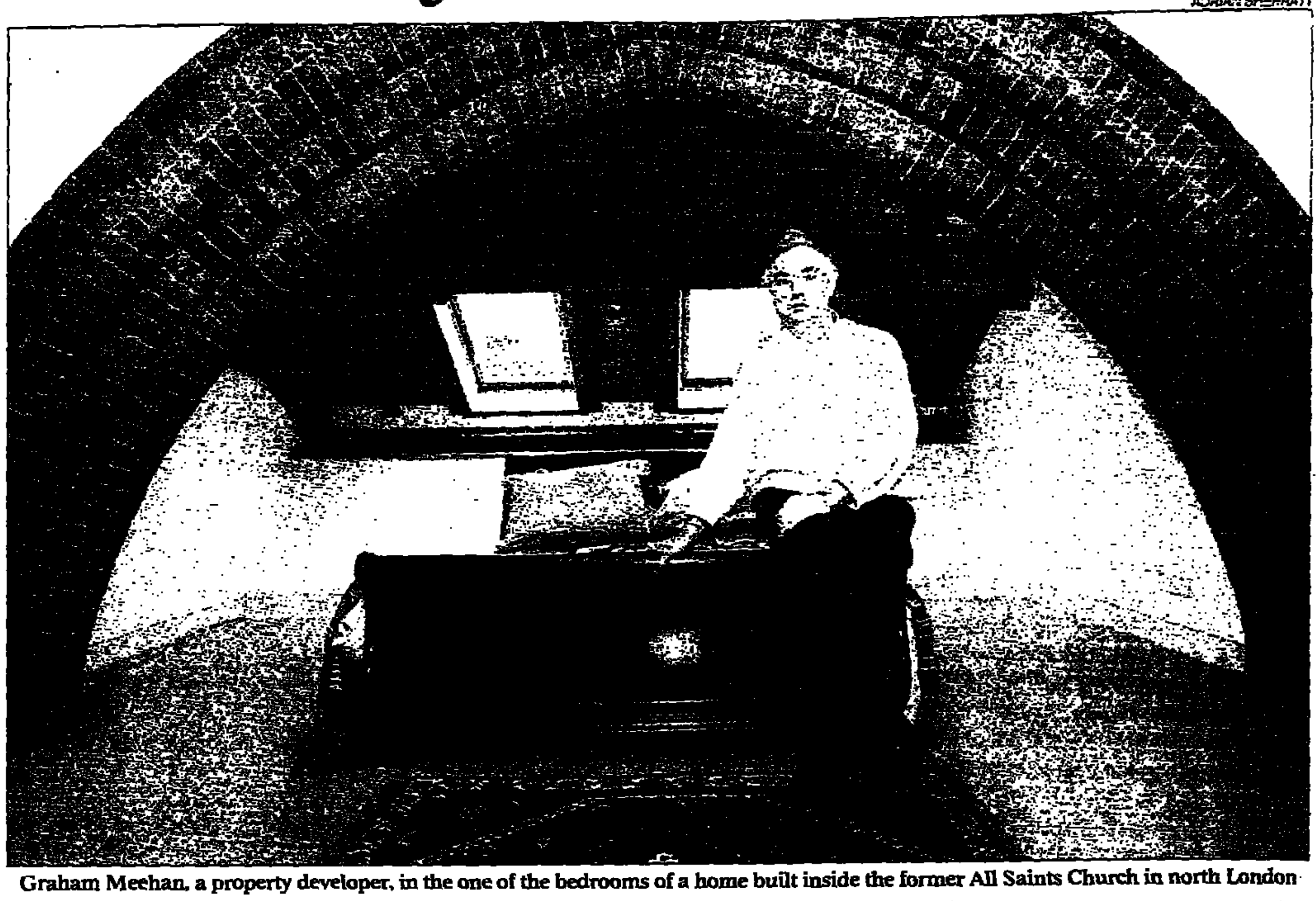
Converted buyers see the light

Lack of quality houses for sale has put churches back in demand, says

Cheryl Taylor


ADRIAN SHERRATT

Graham Meehan, a property developer, in the one of the bedrooms of a home built inside the former All Saints Church in north London

Church conversions became fashionable in the early 1980s when property developers and buyers, eager for something different, snapped up run-down churches going cheaply and turned them into characterful and unusual homes.

The Church of England and the Methodist Church soon realised there was money to be made from their redundant churches and chapels, and prices started to rise. It was common for a run-down church to fetch £500,000 to £1 million in central London in the late 1980s.

During the early 1990s, old church buildings had fallen out of vogue, mainly because of increased prices and the high cost of conversion. Now, agents report an increase in demand, largely because of a shortage of good quality houses for sale in many parts of the country.

Churches, usually located in the centre of towns and villages, are often interesting historical buildings, many with exposed beams, stone columns, arched Gothic windows and vaulted ceilings, and masses of light and space.

Most churches and chapels coming up for sale date from the Victorian period. Churches which are Grade I or Grade II* listed for their architectural merit are protected and cannot be converted or adapted.

Village chapels often have gardens and can make superb homes. Larger churches in inner cities are usually sold to property developers, who turn them into flats, often retaining architectural features, such as marble altars and stained-glass windows.

The Methodist Church has sold 7,000 chapels since 1932. It takes valuations and advice from local surveyors and advertises the property through estate agents. Nearly 100 chapels are said to be for sale around the country. The Church of England disposed of 1,453 churches between 1969 and 1996; about 166 of these were converted into homes. These days, however, the number of churches for sale has diminished.

Stuart Deacon, of the Church Commissioners, says: "Not every church building is suitable for conversion. A church which is away from other habitation might not be suitable for someone to live in: an inner-city church might be more appropriate." The process of change to residential use involves public consultation, so the sale of a church can take several years. "Churches vary widely. Some churches in central London have sold for more than £1 million, others fetched negligible amounts," Mr Deacon says.

Two-thirds of the money raised after paying sale costs, including marketing expenses, goes towards funding the living Church, and one-third to the Church's Conservation Trust. Both the Methodists and the Church of England sell with restrictive covenants against use involving alcohol, sex shops, dance halls, amusements or gambling. The disturbance or removal of any grave, tombstone or memorial on the property is also prohibited.

Falling congregations and the high cost of maintaining old church buildings are the main reasons given by the Church of England for their disposal. The Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, says it has opened more churches in England than it has closed since 1900.

Sometimes, a parish will sell off part of a church for conversion to fund renovation work on the rest of the building. The west end of the Church of St Saviour, in Walton Street, west London, is for sale at £1.7 million through Knight Frank, with outline planning consent for conversion to a 6,000 sq ft house. The rest of the church, with the chapel and altar, will continue to be used for worship.

The Raven Group of developers, with architects Mittelman Caradoc-Hodgkins, have designed a house for the west end of the Victorian-Gothic church, built in 1840 by Geroge Bresevi. They plan to insert a sound-proofed wall dividing the church building in two.

Their design, which can be visualised via a computer model, incorporates a grand entrance hall with a sweeping staircase up to a gallery, three reception rooms, five bedrooms and a roof terrace overlooking Harrods. The price for the completed house is £2.7 million.

● *Knight Frank, 0171-639 8171.*

THE CHURCH DEVELOPER

GRAHAM MEEHAN, a property developer, has converted 20 redundant churches into more than 100 flats and houses in London and Bristol since the early 1980s.

His projects, mainly in north London, include the United Reform Church in Highgate, St Clement's in Islington, and St Stephen's in Ealing, west London.

Mr Meehan, who runs the development company Marcacre, paid £150,000 for his first church, the 18th-century United Reform Church in Highgate in 1982. He spent £600,000 converting the 10,000 sq ft building into 16 flats, which sold from £60,000 each for two bedrooms, mostly to young professionals. They are now worth about £175,000.

Neil Squires, a design consultant, who has worked with Mr Meehan since the early 1980s, says the trend in church conversions is for bigger, more expensive units. "Fifteen years ago, people tried to cram as many flats as possible into a church. Now, the approach is to create a smaller number of larger, more upmarket, homes," he says.

Their latest project, All Saints, Tytherton Road, Tufnell Park, is an example of the new generation of church conversions. The terrace of eight three and four-storey houses, within the 1820s church, each with its own landscaped garden, has almost sold out in less than a month.

TRADITIONALLY built with brick load-bearing walls, Bath stone dressings and slate roofs, the original building has exposed ceiling timbers, arched windows and stone columns. There are now 12ft-high ceilings, floors and doors in pitched pine and designer kitchens.

Prices of the two unsold houses are £260,000 for a 125-year lease on a three-bedroom house, and £295,000 for four bedrooms.

● *Graham Meehan, 0171-491 3141, can also be contacted through the agent Strickley & Kent, 0171-267 2053.*

FOR SALE

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

LONDON
4 The Cloisters, Cromwell Avenue, N6. First-floor apartment with wood floors in a converted United Reform Church, off Highgate High Street. Two bedrooms with en suite bath and shower-room. 20ft reception room with stained glass windows, study area and kitchen/breakfast room. About £175,000 (Foxtons, 0171-433 8600).

LEICESTERSHIRE
The Old Chapel, Wysall Lane, Wymeswold. Converted Baptist chapel with gardens and gravestones. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room (34ft x 36ft, with original arched, stained-glass Gothic windowe and pulpit) and kitchen. About £165,000 (Savills, Walker Walton, 0115 9552551).

HAMPSHIRE
The Old Church House, St Leonard, Beaulieu. Converted rural chapel, a mile from the Beaulieu river, with garden and views to the Isle of Wight. Three bedrooms, shower-room, bathroom, two reception rooms with vaulted ceilings, Gothic arches, classical columns and a former font. Kitchen and cloakroom. Garage. About £275,000 (John D Wood, 01590 677233).

CHERYL TAYLOR

EARLSFIELD ROAD, SW18 **Freehold £400,000**
Close to the west side of Wandsworth Common, a large semi-detached Victorian house set back from the road with off-street parking and a 27.5m (90ft) south facing garden.
5 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, study, kit, conservatory, clkrm, k'ette.
WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

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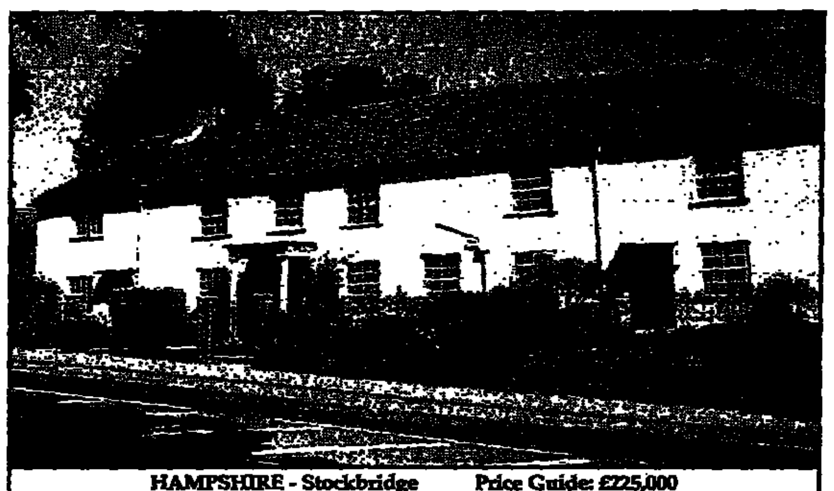
HAMPSHIRE - Stockbridge **Price Guide: £225,000**
On the edge of the village, an attractive Georgian house. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, hall/study, clkrm, kit, s/c annexe with bed, bath, recep/kit. 2 garages, secluded mature gardens.
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

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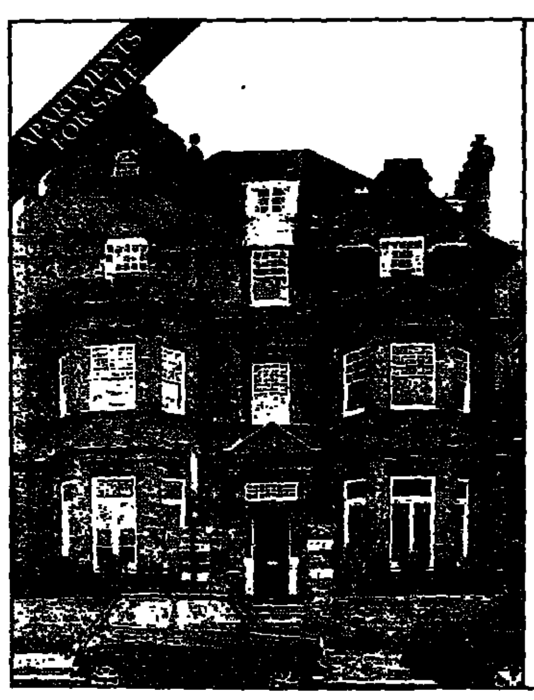
South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522

EDWARDES SQUARE, W8 **Freehold Price Guide: £1,100,000**
Facing west, a gracious end-of-terrace Georgian house with elegant, well-proportioned rooms and an artist's studio at the end of the garden. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kitchen, cellar, utility rm, 2 clkrms, front and rear gardens, access to square gardens.
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



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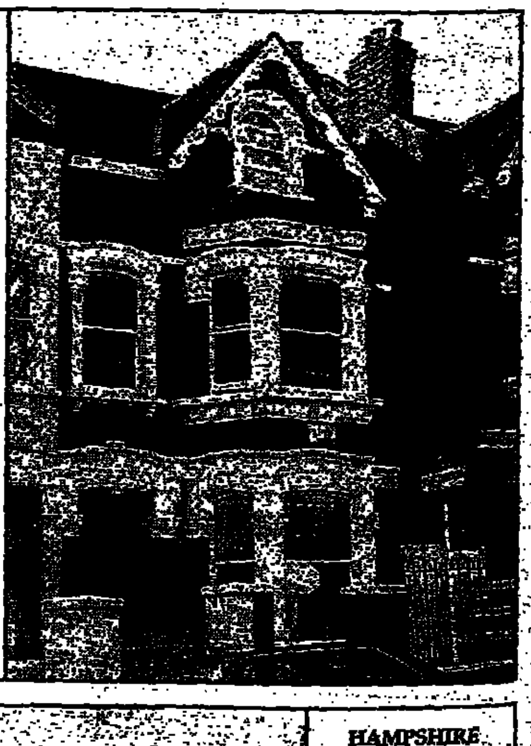
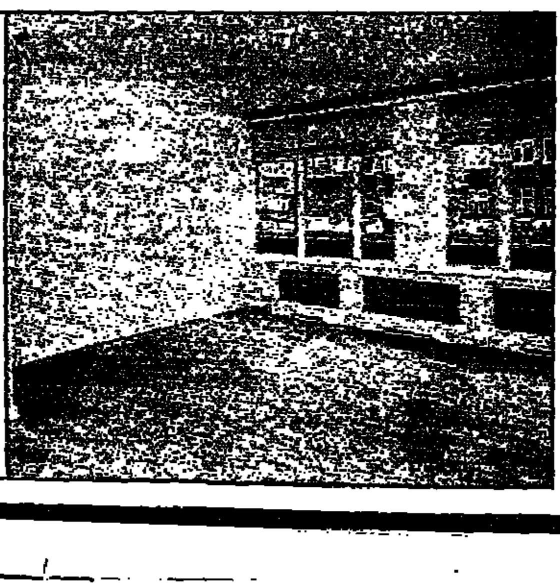

WIMBLEDON SW19

Well placed for Wimbledon BR and underground stations, an attractive semi-detached Victorian family house with a 12.2m (40ft) south west facing garden.
5 beds, bath, shower rm, recep, kitchen, clkrm, cellar, front and rear gardens.

Freehold £325,000

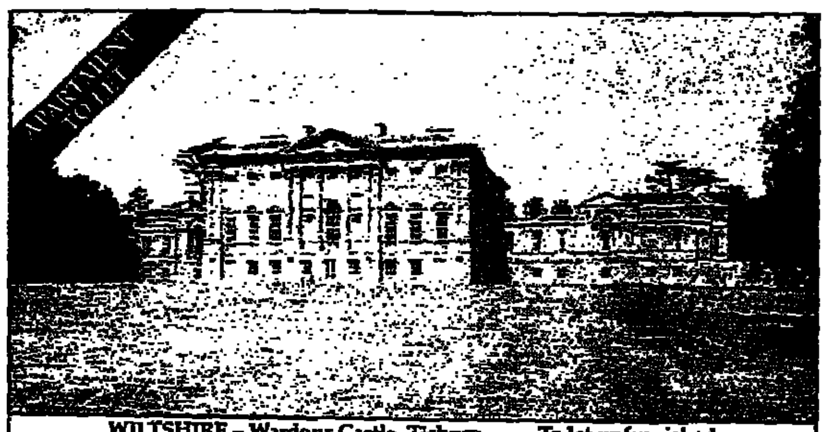
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172


CLARGES STREET, Mayfair, W1

Newly refurbished, a bright, raised ground floor flat in a well-situated, portered block close to Berkeley Square.
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen.

Lease to 2063 £328,000

MAYFAIR: 0171-408 0055



WILTSHIRE – Wardour Castle, Tisbury **To let unfurnished**
A south facing apartment of approx 280sqm (3,000 sq ft) in an historic house set in about 20 ha (50 acres) in an idyllic rural situation. Sympathetically restored, the apartments are of the highest quality with classical minimalist interiors, English oak floors, marble bathrooms, Czech & Speake fittings, German kitchen appliances and comprehensive security systems. The grounds are being restored to the original designs of Woods and Capability Brown.
COUNTRY LETTINGS: 01256 398004

HAMPSHIRE
Close to the southern edge of the New Forest
A country house with grazing land set in a rural position.
3 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kitchen, utility rm, dble garage, swimming pool, 3 loose boxes, various outbuildings, garden & paddocks.
About 2 ha (5 acres).

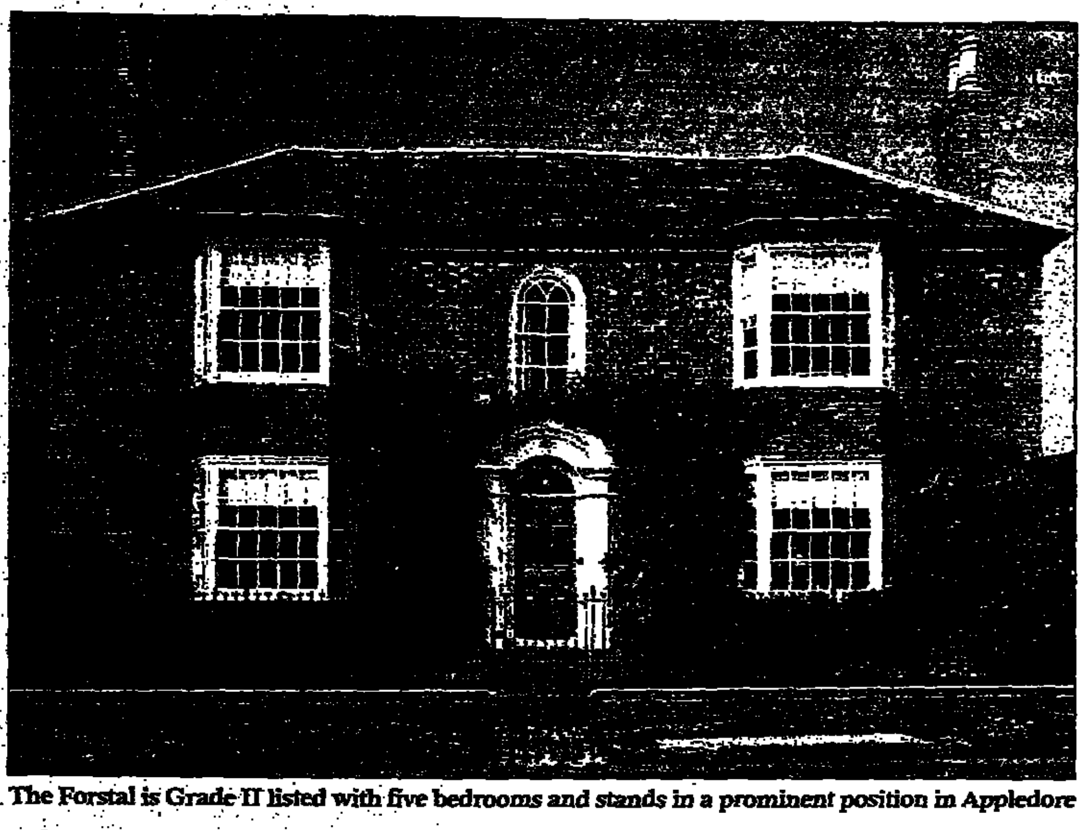
Price Guide: £339,500

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

هكذا من الأصل

When it's blossom time in Appledore

Set in the heart of a Kentish village, The Forstal's elegant rooms have a feel of the Mediterranean


The Forstal is Grade II listed with five bedrooms and stands in a prominent position in Appledore

DES JENSON

Mrs De Haan prepares food in the wooden-beamed kitchen and breakfast room (left) which reflects her Spanish ties as does the use of bold colours in the sitting room (above)

It is hard to miss The Forstal in Appledore. Drive through the Kent village and it stands four-square in the middle of the high street directly opposite the Swan pub. The prominence of the Grade II five-bedroom house was part of its attraction when it was bought by Carmen De Haan, its Spanish owner.

"I wanted to live in an English village with a close community," says Mrs De Haan, who had been living in a 16th-century farmhouse on a 400-acre farm in Cranbrook before divorcing her English husband and moving in with their five children in 1984. "Despite the farm being so old and beautiful it was very isolated.

"The Forstal was prominent and when I saw its red-stone courtyard at the back, the giant weeping willow and the wisteria, that was it."

The morning I went to see the house, the flatlands and weatherboardings of Kent were heavy with wet snow. The garden and paddock (almost an acre) that Mrs De Haan eulogises were buried under six inches of Siberian-looking weather. I checked the scene from the open-fired dining room window and took the estate agent's glossy-brochure word for it.

After Mrs De Haan's first visit to the early Victorian red-brick house, she immediately put in an offer. The previous owner was a widow who had lived there for 50 years. The house had not been touched during her time.

"She hadn't done anything to it," Mrs De Haan says. "Imagine what it was like. There was only an Aga and a single sink in the kitchen. The central heating was terrible and the electrics were dangerous. She was very sad when she sold and regretted it terribly. She cried when she came back and wouldn't come inside."

Part of The Forstal dates from 1687 when it was a farmhouse and coach house on the road to London. The Forstal means "a farmyard in front of a house" which suggests its past position. Today's brick house was built between 1817 and 1840.

Mrs De Haan has done up the house twice, most recently four years ago. The floorboards were replaced, as were the chimney stacks. The hallway was enlarged to give it more presence. Today it is as handsome as you would expect for such a fine façade and classic wooden doorway. "The hall was a little narrow and mean so I took a bit of the music room and made it look lovely. It feels right now. It's in proportion."

A tour of the children's five bedrooms on the first floor revealed that they were also all in proportion: large. Poster-covered and sofa-ed, each felt like a sitting room.

Some of the new reception room colours are less than restrained which is the way Mrs De Haan, born in Malaga, likes it. "The downstairs room colours are outrageous — the deep blues, reds and greens," she says. "They are really bold but the rooms are strong and you can get away with it. They look good and reflect my Spanish temperament."

A further Spanish twist is seen in the 12 Don Quixote glazed tiles which dance along the wall above the Aga in the wooden-beamed kitchen. They were there, inexplicably, when the De Haans moved in. "I couldn't believe it, it was such a coincidence," says Mrs De Haan. "They were in a straight line so I rearranged them into a zig-zag."

Today, with two children at university in London and three at Millfield boarding school, Mrs De Haan is looking to move back to Spain to be near her sister in Majorca. "Now that the children are growing up I am here completely on my own," she says. "I will look for a big old house in the hills of Majorca and also for a little place in Kent, maybe in Tenterden."

She will miss the beaches at St Mary's Bay, Dymchurch, Camber sands and Hythe. She will also miss the friendliness of village life and the walks along the Royal Military Canal which was built to repel a threat from Napoleon which did not materialise.

"I love old English houses. The Forstal is elegant and pretty. It is a relaxed family home and it has been kind to us. In the summer when the tourists come the front street can be a little noisy, but at the back in the garden with the pink and white blossom it is quite heavenly."

ALEX WIJERATNE

● *Agent: Savills (01732 455551)*

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Forstal, Appledore, Kent

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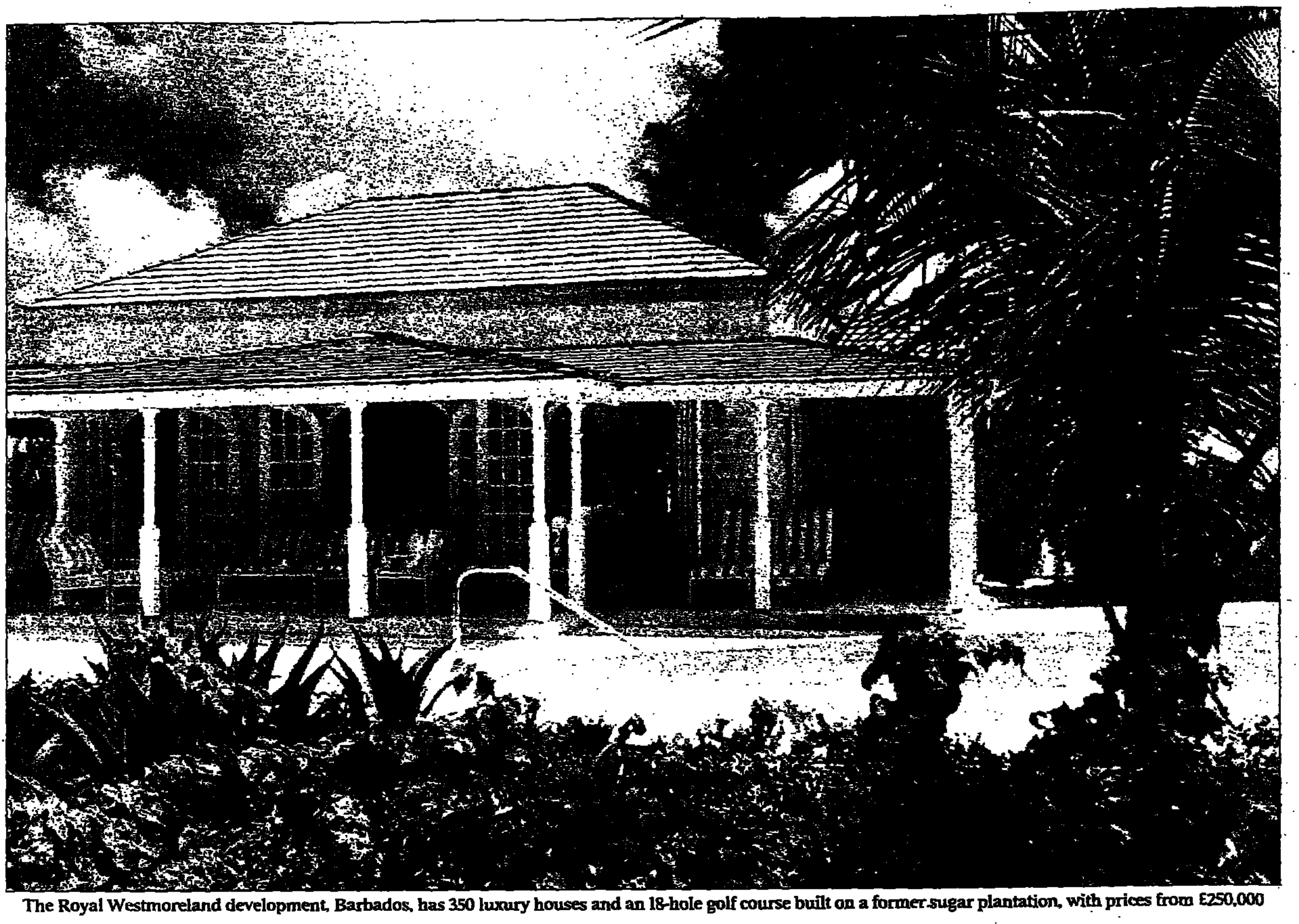
More and more Britons are looking to the Caribbean islands as the ideal place to find a retirement or second home

Where to buy a slice of tropical paradise



The Royal Westmoreland development, Barbados, has 350 luxury houses and an 18-hole golf course built on a former sugar plantation, with prices from £250,000

JAMAICA was Noël Coward's favourite Caribbean island. He bought a home there, Firefly, high *on a cliff on the island's northwest* coast. It was there that he entertained British royalty and Hollywood VIPs, *and he was buried in* its garden in 1973.

The Caribbean has long been a *popular destination for Britons.* With regular direct flights from the UK to Barbados, Antigua and Jamaica, *these* British-orientated islands are the most popular for those seeking a retirement or second home in the Caribbean. They also attract the most property development.

JAMAICA

This is one of the largest of the Caribbean islands, and one of the most beautiful, with its lush mountains and white sand beaches, surrounded by a translucent blue sea. Foreign investment in property on the island is encouraged, but it is no tax haven.

At St Ann's Bay on the north coast, a new resort — including two international hotels and a 27-hole championship golf course — is being built on the 800-acre Drax Hall Estate. A 100-berth marina and a *yacht club are planned.*

Villa plots overlooking the golf course and the sea cost from *£45,000 to £75,000 for a half-acre* plot. A luxury three-bedroom house can be built for about £150,000, *excluding the cost of the land.*

Property transfer tax is paid by the vendor, at 7.5 per cent of the sale price. Buying costs are about 4 to 5 *per cent of the purchase price.* Larger, detached houses on the island, such as those at the Drax Hall Estate, can be let for £2,000 to £3,000 a week in the peak winter season. Rental returns are free of local taxes for the first seven years of ownership.

BARBADOS

This is the most sophisticated of the Caribbean islands — and the most expensive. An enviable climate and friendly population are the obvious attractions of an island swathed in sugar cane and blessed with some *of the Caribbean's finest beaches.*

The property market is relatively stable, although prices are rising as *building land becomes scarce. You* could buy a one-bedroom flat there for under £100,000, but most *homes cost a great deal more.* Houses costing more than £1 million are common at Sandy Bay and *St James on the island's* wealthy west coast, an area scattered with golf courses and expen*sive hotels.*

Barbados has a new leisure home development, the Royal *Westmoreland, which has been* created on 480 acres of former sugar plantation, in the hills above *St James. The British-owned dev*elopment includes 350 luxury houses around an 18-hole golf *course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. Sixty houses with views* over the golf course have been built and sold, mainly to British buyers.

"*Most of our purchasers are* buying with a view to retirement. The average age is 55. Some are *looking to retire here, others will* spend the winter in their property. Most buy for the sports facilities *and the outdoor life," says Julian* Rooney, the managing director.

The former tennis star Virginia *Wade recently paid £330,000 for a two-bedroom house here. Other* famous owners at Royal Westmoreland include David Lloyd and Ian *Woosnam, who spent £1.3 million* last year on a five-bedroom villa overlooking the 18th fairway.

Prices start at £250,000, which buys a two-bedroom villa close to the clubhouse, with sun terraces *and sea views.* The detached courtyard villas, costing from £450,000, have three bedrooms, marble *floors, coral stone walls,* a private pool and landscaped gardens.

There are also a few larger, two*storey* colonial-style houses in half an acre. Built around leafy inner courtyards, with up to five bed*rooms* and a guest cottage, these cost from £770,000 to more than £1 million.

On-site facilities include a tennis centre and a large leisure complex, with swimming pools, spa bath, a *gymnasium* and a health clinic.

There is no capital gains tax to pay on any profits when you sell *your Barbadian home.* There is a property transfer tax of 10 per cent of the purchase price incurred on *buying and* 8 per cent on selling, plus stamp duty and lawyers' fees of about 2 per cent. However, because of a Government concession, property tax is not levied on the sale or purchase of property at Royal Westmoreland.

ANTIGUA

This the largest of the Leeward Islands, has a dry climate and an arid landscape, scattered with forts and anchorages, including English *Harbour, where Nelson once shel*tered the British Fleet.

During the 1980s the island, with *its* 365 beaches, flanked by *palm* trees and turquoise seas, was at the hub of the Caribbean's building boom. Following the world recession, the property market slumped, leaving a glut of newly built homes. Some of the island's best value *property* is at the new Jolly Harbour Marina on the west coast, near the capital, St John's. More than 500 waterfront homes have been built by the Swiss developer Alfred Erhart alongside canals or open waterways. Prices range from £76,000 to £96,000 for an air-conditioned *two-storey,* two-bedroom terraced house, with private jetty and *mooring.*

> 'Most buyers want to retire or spend the winter there. They like the sports facilities and outdoor life'

There are also a few prime beachfront plots available for villas built to individual specification, priced from £125,000.

A three-bedroom villa with three bathrooms, garage and marina berth can be built for £340,000, including the cost of the land, says Simon Malster of agent Investors in Property.

The 500-acre development has a shopping centre and a sports complex, with tennis, squash and *swimming* pool, two beaches and an 18-hole golf course.

On the south coast of Antigua is *St James's* Club, once owned by the entrepreneur Peter de Savary. John German, of agent Cluttons, is asking £422,000 for Ronaldshay Villa, a luxury three-bedroom house with three bathrooms, set high on St James's Hill with panoramic views. It comes with a cooling verandah to let the breeze waft through the high-ceilinged rooms, an acre of tropical gardens and its own swimming pool.

Service charges at the St James's Club are around £5,000 a year. Letting your home will help offset running costs. Typically, a large detached villa at the St James's Club will fetch £3,000 a week in rental income in the winter months.

There is no income tax or capital gains tax to pay on Antigua. Allow about 5 per cent of the purchase price to cover stamp duty and legal fees.

TURKS & CAICOS

The English-speaking island of Providenciales, the largest of the Turks & Caicos Islands, is famous for its beaches and clear water. It offers good scuba diving and fishing, year-round sunshine and all the advantages of a tax haven.

One of the few remaining British Crown Colonies, at the southern end of the Bahamas chain, the island can be reached in 90 minutes by plane from Miami, or direct from Milan.

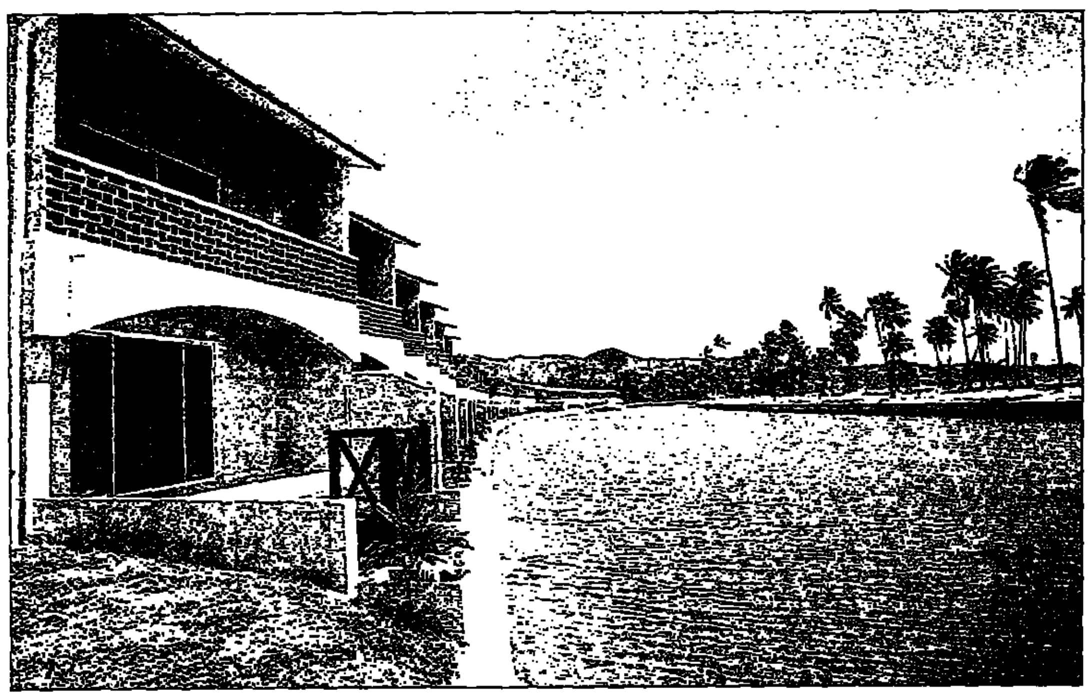
Richmond Hill Estates is selling villa plots at Grace Bay Hills, close to the island's 18-hole championship golf course, from £13,333 to £56,000 for a third of an acre. There is also a range of three and four-bedroom villas available at Turtle Bay Cove, priced from £176,666. Houses on the beach are more expensive. Expect to pay at least £650,000 for a three to four-bedroom *house,* with maid's quarters, private pool and exotic landscaped gardens. Cluttons is the British agent.

There are also uninhabited outer islands for sale in whole or part. Raw land starts at £50,000 an acre. Some of the islands have underground springs and wells, others will need desalination plants.

Those contemplating a move to a Caribbean island might also consider renting a home. A three-bedroom place a short distance from the beach can be rented from £1,300 a month for a year.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● *Drax Hall Estate: 001 809 972 2438 (Jamaica); Investors in Property, 0181-905 5511 (Antigua); Royal Westmoreland, 0171-355 5028 (Barbados); Cluttons, 0171-408 1010 (Antigua and Providenciales).*



The Jolly Harbour Marina, Antigua, has two-bedroom terraced houses from £76,000 to £96,000

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Three cases of 10 year old whisky to be won

Today *The Times* brings you the *opportunity to buy tickets for one* of the most important events in the world of bridge, The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, and the chance to win a superb case of The Macallan whisky.

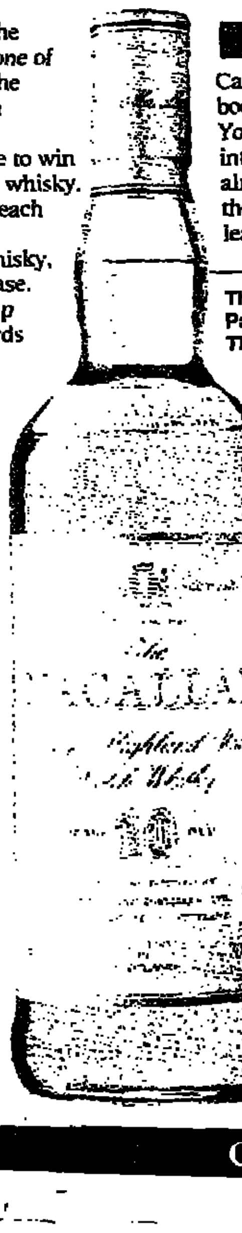
There are three first prizes, each *consisting* of 12 bottles of The Macallan 10 Year Old malt whisky, worth approximately £260 a case.

There are also 40 *runners-up* prizes of Macallan playing cards and miniature bottles of The Macallan 10 Year Old.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship is regarded by many as the *most prestigious event in the* bridge calendar and the one which all players most aspire to win.

Now in its 26th year, the championship will be held next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London. Thirty-two of the world's top names will be playing, including bridge's *most famous player,* Omar Sharif. Last year's winners were Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth from America.

In addition to the title itself and prize money totalling £10,000, competitors will be playing for the championship trophy and a case each of The Macallan which is renowned for its full-bodied flavour and distinctively *mellow* taste.



HOW TO ENTER

Call the hotline number below to book your tickets quoting *The Times.* You will *automatically* be *entered* into a free prize draw. If you already have tickets, you can enter the draw by ringing the hotline and leaving your name and address.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship will be held at *The White House Hotel, Albany* Street, London NW1.

Dates of the tournament are:
January 22-23-24

Prices are as follows:
To attend all sessions: £35
Wednesday, 5.30pm-11pm: £12.50
Thursday, 12noon-4pm: £12.50; 5.30pm-11pm: £12.50
All day Thursday £20
Friday, 1pm-6pm £17.50
***Tickets to be collected from* the box office at the White House Hotel.**

FOR YOUR TICKETS CALL THE MACALLAN INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PAIRS HOTLINE:
0181-878 5844

The MACALLAN
Single Highland Malt
Scotch Whisky

CHANGING TIMES

SELLING POINTS

FITTED KITCHEN

For some people, choosing a fitted kitchen can rank with those other high-stress events of getting married or moving house.

Whereas once you might have impressed the neighbours with a *bank* of *snuggly* fitting units, today everyone has them, and people expect *to find a better kitchen than* theirs when they move house.

Bearing in mind that most people refit the kitchen only about every ten years, selecting from the ever-expanding range of materials, colours and styles is taxing. Should *you opt for a traditional look* or country cottage? High-tech or maybe stainless steel for an *industrial feel?*

And if you go for one of today's favourite styles, such *as the* cool-colour Shaker look, will it become *passé?* Will the fad for hanging your chairs on the wall have worn off in five years' time when you *may want to sell?*

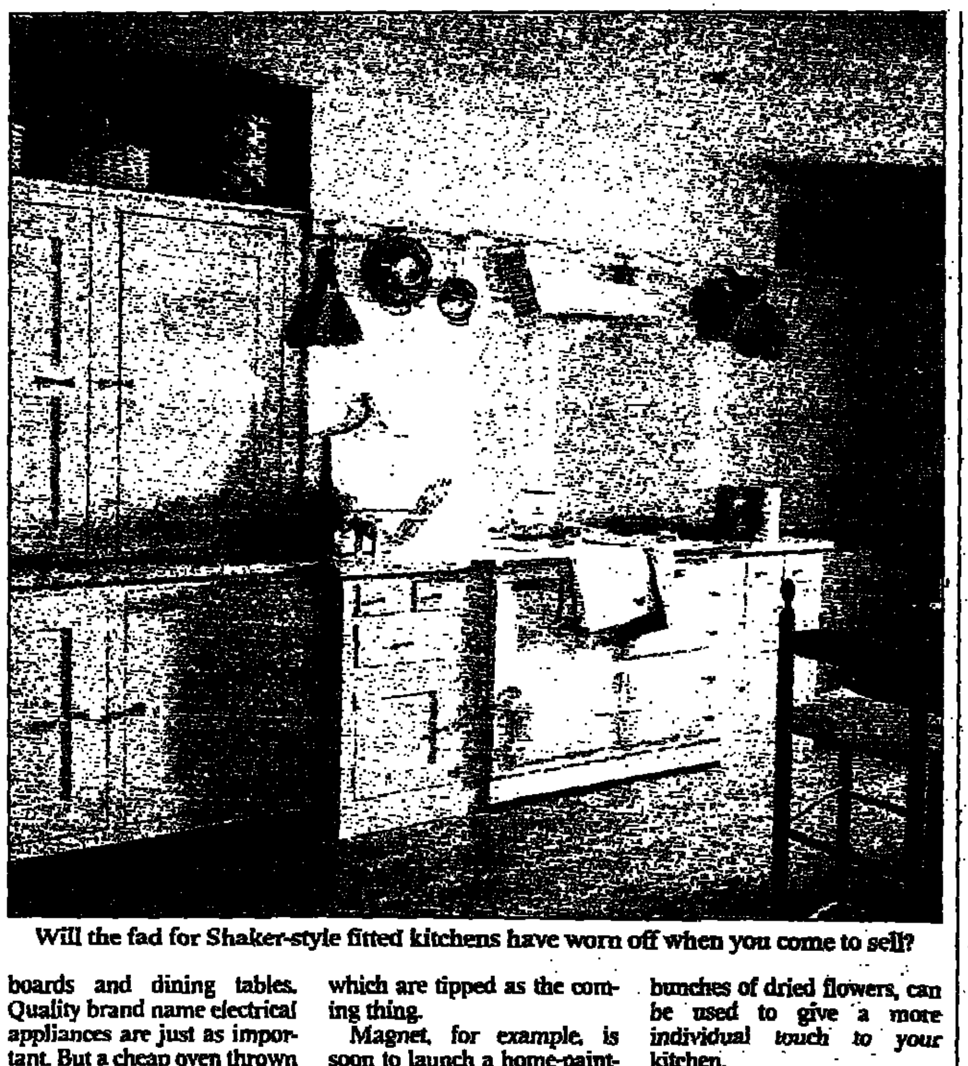
Although the choice of kitchen is highly personal, there are styles that are widely popular and less likely to date. Traditional and country cottage *kitchens* in pine and oak are *perennial* favourites, say retailers, while at the higher priced end of the market, the *hand-painted* look also has a long-lasting appeal, say companies such as Smallbone of Devizes.

If you are selling your house it is not just the style *and colour of the cupboards* that will catch the eye of potential buyers, or whether *you have any of those* fiendishly clever little units that swivel out to become ironing boards and dining tables. Quality brand name electrical appliances are just as important. But a cheap oven thrown in as part of a special offer package is unlikely to impress.

Fitted kitchens may now be *expected as standard* by househunters but, say some estate agents, a new kitchen *with up-to-the-minute* appliances will top up your property's asking price.

If you want to ensure you are ahead of the field in your choice of kitchen, you should opt for more colour variants and paint finishes, such as the antique or distressed look, which are tipped as the coming thing.

Magnet, for example, is soon to launch a home-painting service so that its custom*ers can have exactly the effect* they desire. The company has also introduced kitchen styles with interchangeable colour panels, so that you can ring the changes.



Will the fad for Shaker-style fitted kitchens have worn off when you come to sell?

Among other kitchen companies, the unfitted fitted look is the way forward, provided you have a large enough space. Dressers, island units with chopping boards, and a ceiling rack for your pans and bunches of dried flowers, can be used to give a more *individual touch to your* kitchen.

However, the stainless steel *and high-tech styles are likely* to remain more for city dwellers and the Shaker look may peak but is here to stay, say retailers.

An average spend on a kitchen at a high street or DIY store, such as Homebase, is £2,000 to £4,000, plus about £1,000 for installation. The price of a hand-painted Smallbone kitchen starts at about £7,500.

CLARE STEWART

PROPERTY NEWS

■ TWO OF only five Lutyens-built townhouses in London are for sale as one residence. Extending to some 40 rooms in total, the houses in Great Peter Street, SW1, were built for the Honourable Francis Maclaren MP and his sister, Lady Norman, in 1911. They were most recently used as the *headquarters of the* Rural Development Commission. The asking price is about £3.25 million. Contact Knight Frank (0171-824 8171) or King Sturge & Co (0171-493 4933).

■ THE provisions of the 1996 Housing Act will come into force on February 28. All new tenancies will automatically be Assured Shorthold Tenancies, unless rents are more than £25,000 per year. Land*lords will be able to repossess* properties after a tenant has defaulted on two months' rent, instead of three, and also to evict tenants for anti-social behaviour.

■ THE sales office for the 46 one and two-bedroom luxury apartments being built by Chelsea Village plc in the grounds of Chelsea Football Club in southwest London opened this week. The apart*ments should be finished* this summer, and will include underground parking. Prices from £155,000 to £220,000. Contact Savills (0171-385 2496).

■ THE strengthening of the pound has stimulated demand for property overseas, according to Hamptons International. Meanwhile, prices on the Continent have remained stagnant. David King of Hamptons says: "From a low point of about Fr7.5 to the pound, we are now looking at Fr9, making French property substantially better value to purchase."

AMANDA LOOSE

هكذا من الأصل

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PROPERTY

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lines. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 833 1104.

CLEVELAND SQ. W2. Mod 1 bed patio apt in attractive gdn sq, wood floor, feature fireplace. recep, kit, bath. £118,000. Granvilles 0171 221 4935

DEVONSHIRE ST, W1. Superb mod house, 2 rec, 4 bed all s/s, CH & CHW, lift & 2 bed s/c flat. 920 yrs. £795,000. Sole Agt James Salvey. 0171 258 0800

GLOUCESTER TERR W2. Studio flat with pogs ext, LGF, studio rm, vaulr rm, kit, bath. £75,000. Granvilles 0171 221 4935

HOLLAND PARK New built house 3 bed, 2 bath, lounge, garage, F/H. £295,000. 0171 724 9919

LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale. The specialist local agents. Vickers & Co 0171 289 1692

LOFT style duplex apt in W1 nr Baker St. 2 bed, 2 bath, 27' rec, 2 terraces, lift & porter. Superb. 990 yrs. £625,000. James Salvey 0171 258 0800

MAIDA VALE, W9. Beautifully presented one bedroom flat in prime road. £109,000. Sandfords 0171 723 9988.

REGENTS PARK, NW1. Probate sale exclusive 2/3 bed 2 recep-tion 2 bath 1st flr apartment, high ceilings in Nash Crown terrace. Views over park, u/gnd pkng. Reduced price: £595,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

W2 Inverness Terr Sml 1 bed flat in stucco ftd prd conv £79,950 Westways 0171 792 2167

W2 Inverness Terr. Bright top flr 2 bed flat in prd conv £120,000 Westways 0171 792 2167.

W1, nr Baker St. Very large apt in excl mansion blk, 3 bed, 3 bath 2 e/s, 3 rec, large kit/diner, lift, CH & CHW. 101 yrs. £375,000. James Salvey 0171 258 0800

W1 Seymour Place, 2 bed flat, p/b block, lift, porter, opp gym, lng lease£149,950. 0171 724 9919

N7
BEAUX ARTS BUILDING
Loft style 1 (gallery) bedroom 1st flr flat. 24 hr security. Communal gdn.
£114,000 l/h
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Loft on the river
for mix use, residential/commercial near tube station
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reply to:
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NW8 0ET.

CHISWICK W4.
Victorian cottage style flat-fronted 3 bedroom terraced house, in quiet tree lined street, close to Chiswick house. Original features, Kahrs wood flooring, double reception, conservatory style kitchen/ breakfast room. 30ft garden. GCH. £200,000.
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ST JOHN'S WOOD
A New Development of Luxury apartments with 2 & 3 Bedroom flats Remaining. High Quality Specification. Prices from £240,000
For more information Call 0171 837 4035
ROCKDELL

HAMILTON TERRACE, ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8
Freehold house with garage.
Modernised and newly refurbished Grade II listed semi-detached Freehold house in immaculate condition.
3 receptions, 5 bedrooms, 3 luxury bathrooms and 1 shower room. Guest cloakroom. Bulthaup kitchen with Bosch appliances. Utility room/2nd kitchen. Conservatory leading to 120' west-facing garden. Garage plus off-street parking.
£1,150,000.
Please contact owner on 0171 286 7485.

NORTH OF THE THAMES

YORK STREET, W1. Large 4 bed 2 bath conversion close to centre of town. £259,980. Sandfords. 0171 723 9988

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN, EC2 2 bed apartment on 2nd flr. Views over gdn. L/hold £145,000 Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

BARBICAN, EC2 4 bed, 2 bath Tower flat. £145,000 L/hold. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

BEDFORD SQ, WC1 Mansion flat. 4 large rms, K/B, Ch, lift, access to sq. Leasehold 13 yrs remain £95,000 0171 580 6275

CHARTERHOUSE SQ. EC1. 4th flr studio in art deco blk with pool, gym, sauna & roof terr. £79,500. Frank Harris & Co. 0171 600 7000

GREAT INVESTMENT SITUATION
Within walking distance of the City. 2 bed brand new flat adjacent to St Katherine's Dock & Tower Bridge.
Ideal situation for many.
Priced to sell at £140,000
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HURFORD [illegible] CARR
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SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BARNES
Beautifully appointed mansion flat, recently refurbished, 2 beds, 2 bath, 27ft reception room, large fully fitted kitchen, magnificent river views. Long lease + share of freehold. £247,500.
Tel: 0181 878 2464/ 0181 741 0558.

MORTLAKE/ BARNES
'The Royals'. Charming, 2 bed cottage, stripped floors, sash windows, secluded patio, large through reception room. A pretty & quiet pedestrian road. 2 mins public transport & local shops, schools etc. Excellent condition. Tel: 0181 3922365. £156,000. No Agents.

THE ROYALS EAST SHEEN
2 bed/2 reception cottage, with garden, £165,000.
Tel. 0181 878 2092

WANDSWORTH
Common SW12
large semi-detached house, 5 beds, 3 receptions, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 2 toilets, garden backing onto Common with access. Near British Rail and Underground, many Schools and towncentre. £310,000. No Agents.
Tel: 0181 672 1317.

BELGRAVIA

HALKIN PLACE SW1. Spacious 1st flr 4 beds, 2 baths, dble recep, underground parking for 1 car. L/H £485,000. Tyldon Loft Co. 0171 373 0373.

BELGRAVIA

SW1
Spectacular property in exclusive, quiet Belgrave Mews. Approx 3000sq ft on 2 floors: Garage, cop. large drawing room, kitchen/breakfast room, guest cloakrm. 1st floor: 4 double bedrooms (2 en suite), bathroom. 2nd floor: Large attic/studio or 5th bedroom. 75 year lease.
£1,100,000
Please call office hours 10-6pm
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DULWICH

LOGGETTS, SE21. Immac. 2 bed bungalow, own garage & pvte garden in prestige devpt. nr Dulwich Village. £146,000 F/H. Volker & Volker 0181 6708000

FULHAM

FULHAM 2 dbl bed conv flat with gdn. Living rm with fireplace, kit/bck, btlrm, gch. 10 mins to Putney Bridge tube. £129,950 Allen Briegel 0181 780 0077

FULHAM, Great 2 bed garden flat, ready for immediate occupation. £143,950 Leasehold Wellingtons 0171 731 4448.

HURLINGHAM, 5 bed semi-det house with OSP & large garden. Beautifully refurbed. £675,000 Wellingtons 0171 731 4448.

OAKBURY ROAD SW6. 1st floor split level 2 bedrooms & shared garden. £124,950 L/H. Tyldon Loft Co. 0171 373 0373.

PARSONS GREEN, 4 bed, 2 bath Victorian house fully refurbished. £369,000 FH Wellingtons 0171 731 4448.

SW10, 2 bed raised ground floor flat. Requires modernisation hence £155,000 Leasehold. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

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WEST HAMPSTEAD
1 double bed raised ground floor apartment set in a red bricked Victorian house. Bath and shower room, views across London.
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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

HOLLAND PARK W11, elegantly restored 5 storey period house overlooking gardens with large rear garden: 5 beds, 4 baths, superb 1st floor Drawing room, Dining room, Study, kitchen / family room, terrace. £1.2m. Century 21. Kensington. 0171 589 0001. JSA Chestertons 0171 937 7244

SLOANE SQUARE
Elegant, spacious 1 bedroom 3rd floor flat with award winning communal gardens. New fitted kitchen.
Leasehold.
£185,000
0171 7304106 Eve

SW3
Chelsea freehold. Ready to move in. Light and spacious 4/5 bedroom house, 3 bathrooms (2 en/suite), dressing room, large kitchen, dining room. Stunning outdoors; south facing garden, terrace & patio.
£880,000
Please call office hours 10am-6pm
0171 589 4836

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3 bed, 2 bath Victorian cottage, recently totally modernised, in Jameson St (Hillgate Village).
Have received offer of £385,000 through agent, but will accept £379,000 for quick private sale.
Can view Sunday evening.
Telephone 0181 332 2656.

KENSINGTON W8
Immaculate 1st floor flat in a prestigious modern block with 24 hour porter, lift and exclusive sports facilities. Ready for immediate occupation. 2 double bedrooms, reception room, 2 bathrooms, luxury fitted kitchen, communal gardens, lease for 115 years. Private sale. £310,000.
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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHELSEA Kings Rd. 2 bedrm conv. flat. Long lse. £139,000. Other props avail. Markleigh Estates 0171 491 8977

HOLLAND PARK W11 studio flat in period conv. 9' ceiling. Wood floor. Ideal rental investment. £75,000 L/H 0171 221 5800

HOLLAND PARK An impressive 2 bed 3rd flr portered apt.priv pkg £190,000 0171 221 9044

SW7 Queensgate Terrace, 2 bedroom flat with spacious receptions & 50' patio. £239,500. L/H Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911 (t) 0171 244 9838 (f)

PHILBEACH GDNS SW5. 2nd flr 2 bed flat overlooking 2 acres communal gardens. Leasehold £169,000. TLC 0171 373 0373.

ESSEX

ESSEX VILLAGE Terrace House 3 double beds, study, large kit, lounge, cloakrm, bath, garage, parking space, CH, gdns. £67,500 ono 01245 401124 0171 782 5941/ 0850 081268.

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WARWKS/OXON borders, twixt Chipping Norton and Moreton-in-Marsh. Former Junior School at Little Compton, with playground and paddock of 1 acre. Suitable for continuation as school/potential for residential /other use, subject to planning. Guide-in excess of £150,000. Tayler & Fletcher Chipping Norton. Tel: 01608 644344

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£129,000.
0181 570 6838/ 0468 421239.

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COBHAM, Rare opportunity to purchase this charming Grade II listed period cottage. Rural wood and farmland outlook yet only half mile from Cobham Centre, mins drive from BR Stns (30 mins Waterloo). Built circa 1700 offering wealth of timbers & exposed beams, feature walk-in Inglenook fireplace, stripped pine floors & doors, sitting rm, din rm, kit/bck rm, util, shower room, sep WC, 3 beds, bathroom, det barn style garage with ample roof storage, mature garden with courtyard, garden store. Superb quality interior presentation. £249,950 01932 868330 or 01932 560900.

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ADJACENT TO MUSTIQUE
Elevated luxury detached residence with magnificent views over Spring Bay. 3 double bedrooms, 2 large bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, large lounge with wraparound deck. Furnished to a high standard, with air conditioning.
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5 mins Ciutadella, reluctant sale after 14 years, detached 3 bedroomed villa in coldisac, 1½ bathrooms, garage, roof terrace, large private garden, near beach, fully furnished and equiped.
£80,000.
Tel. UK 01494 673388 or Fax Menorca 003471 480404

MENORCA
Mod lux apart with outstanding views over Mahon harbour. Suitable for permanent residence or holidays. Nr shops, bus & restaurants. Lnge/dining rm, veranda, 2 bed with 1 bath, 1 shower/toilet, fitted kitchen, laundry. Phone, air-cond. Area 90sqm inc gge space. Swimming pool in complex, access to waterfront & mooring. Owner moving to nearby villa.
£52,000 Unfurnished or £54,500 fully furnished.
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Costa Del Sol, near to Estepona. Best of sea, town & country. 2 bathrooms, lounge, dining room with sliding roof, study, outhouse, balconies facing East South & West. Terrace. Fully furnished. Attractive maintained gardens & community pool, golf including Valderrama, sailing & walking nearby. £85,000. Phone for details & photos.
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BAKER ST W1 2 dble flat in prestigious block, 24 hr porter. Quiet. £350 pw. 0973 223832

BARBICAN EC2, Selection of quality flats and maisonettes available. Superb 1 bed mais £285pw. Modern 2 bed flat £300pw. Lakeside Mews 2 bed mais. £325pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

BARNES SW13 Stunning modern Thames-side apt, river views, balcony, 3 beds, 2 baths, private parking, security intercom / video system, fully furnished. £450 pw. Tel: 0181 748 1651.

BATTERSEA luxury 1 bdrm, recep, kitchen & bathroom. N/S, OSP. £160pw. 0171 7202787.

CITY, Superb 2 bed. Immaculate throughout 2 bath, d/w, w/m etc. Near St Paul's £450pw Also 2 bed, 2 bath, near Barbican Lake £325pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

SW3
1 bedroom flat, 4th floor, balcony, lift, porter, between Kings Road and river, attractive, comfortable, colour TV, Fax. King Size bed, w/mc.
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LONDON RENTALS

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BELSIZE PARK NW3 Lux furn 2 dble bed p/b flat, f/r kit, dble rec. £330 pw. 0181 953 8911 T

BRAMHAM GDNS SW5 2 bed/ 2 bath lux furn balc flat. £425 pw. TLC. 0171 370 4000

BRYANSTON SQ W1 Beaut 3 bed, 2 bath bright flat, porter, lift £575pw Parkers 171 724 4455

CHELSEA lux 2 bed, 2 bath, Nr Slone Sq. £350 pw. Markleigh Estates. 0171 491 8977

CHELSEA SW10 Luxury 2 bed furnished balcony flat. £300 pw. TLC. 0171 370 4000

E14, newly decorated 4 bed, 2 bath townhouse. U/f £350pw. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

HEREFORD RD, W2. Edwardian house 4 beds, 2 recep, 2 baths, kit, gdn, roof terr. £800 pw. Granvilles 0171 221 4935

HYDE PK W2. 4 bd 3 bth, dbl lnge unfurn, lift, porter in mansion blk. £650 pw. 0171 724 9919

KENSINGTON Stunning 3 beds/3 bath Flats in W8 for rent. Immaculate cond. Very high stand. furniture, cul de sac off High Street £600-£650 pw. 1 yr contract min. 0181 995 2886

KENSINGTON Lux lge 3 bed, 2 bath, roof terr. Nr Tube. £500 pw. City Lets. 0171 488 1458

LOWNDES SQUARE SW1. Bright spacious 1 bed 3rd flr furn flat overlooking the gardens, lift. £425pw. Tel. 01672 562252

PARSONS GREEN
Delightful 1st flr flat with well tended south-facing walled garden. 2 double bedrms (1 'en-suite' shower r wc), bathrm. FF kitchen & very big sitting room. High ceilings, GCH & water, lots of cupboards/ shelves. Satellite TV & 2 phone lines. Truly immaculate condition.
Unfurnished except curtains, decorative light fittings etc. 3 mins walk Parsons Green Tube £1600 pcm excl. Avail Feb 1st. Tel Sara Beneens 0181 3154540

E3 Superb luxury furnished
Warehouse / loft apartment, in sought after Bow Quarter development. 2 galleried double bedrooms. 18 ft ceiling / raw brickwork. 24hr Security. Secure parking. Includes free use of health club / pool. Residents Bar. Suit couple. £280pw avail Feb 1.
0171 7744225 Anita

SW14
Parkside, East Sheen, newly renovated, 2 bedroom cottage, furnished, garden.
£1,200pcm, exclusive.
Tel:0181 693 1982.

ISLINGTON
3 bdrm family home with pvt South facing gdn. Immediate let. 5 mins from tube & shops. £325pw.
No agents
0171 226 9906

Holland Park,
Spacious 2 double bedroom, 2 bathroom ground floor apartment of Grand Ambassadorial house. Free parking, use of large garden & pool, quiet treelined street, avail immediately.
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LONDON RENTALS

MAYFAIR Super lux 2 bed, 2 bath, lge kit, beautifully furnished. In prime block. £400 pw inc ch & hw 0171 724 6111

PIMLICO Detached 5 bed hse on River. Garage + patio. Full porterage £895 pw 0171 221 9044

PIMLICO Flat, 3 beds, 2 baths, f/furn, well dec. £450pw. 0171 6308349 or 01277 353819.

PUTNEY heath 2 bed flat, OSP, sports facilities, heating inc. £250 pw. Tel 0181 8706015.

RICHMOND 1 bed cott in grounds of Period House. Close river & park. £950pcm. 0181 9403424.

SOHO 5 mins. Luxury large 2 bed, F/Furnished, Nr Tube. £390 pw. City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

SLONE SQUARE SW3 Selection of newly refurb 3 bedroom maisonettes and 1 bedroom apartments. Prices from £300 pw. 0171 794 9588 / 0976 700677

SOUTH KENSINGTON Lux lge 2 bed, 2 bath, FF, Nr Tube. £375 pw. City Lets. 0171 488 1458

SOUTH KENSINGTON SW5 3 bed, 2 bath Penthouse. £700 pw. TLC. 0171 370 4000

St JOHNS WOOD Sunny 3 bed, 2 bath Penthouse. Redec, opp tube. £650pw 0171 289 0042

SWISS COTTAGE New int designed 2 + 3 bed apts. Maid service. Long/Short let fr £350 pw. 0171 794 6702/0956 286272

W14, Brook Green. Superb 1 bed garden flat refurbished throughout. W/m, d/w, £225pw 0171 253 4414.

SW1 St.James Pk. Charming sunny furn 1 dbr apt. balcony & din. £220pw 0171 828 1522.

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UNFURNISHED flats to let in prestige SW1 block. Pool, gym, squash courts & restaurant. Rent inc. service charges, CH & HW. Studios from £140 per week. Call 0171 798 8785 Mon-Fri 9 am - 5 pm

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W11 1 dble bedrm flat, FF, excellent cond. nr shops, rests, tube, 1 yr Jan 25th. £290pw inc 2 hrs clean.Ref req'd. 01815042234.

WIMBLEDON Quiet location, newly decorated, twin beded and single room, share bathroom, kitchen, dinning room, washing machine, tumble dryer and garden. £350pcm each. References essential. 0181 9470738.

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COUNTRY RENTALS

OXON Nr. Henley. Superb barn conv, in glorious surroundings. 4 beds, 2 receps, garage + garden. To let £1000 p.c.m. Tel Lane Fox 01734 845757.

COUNTRY RENTALS

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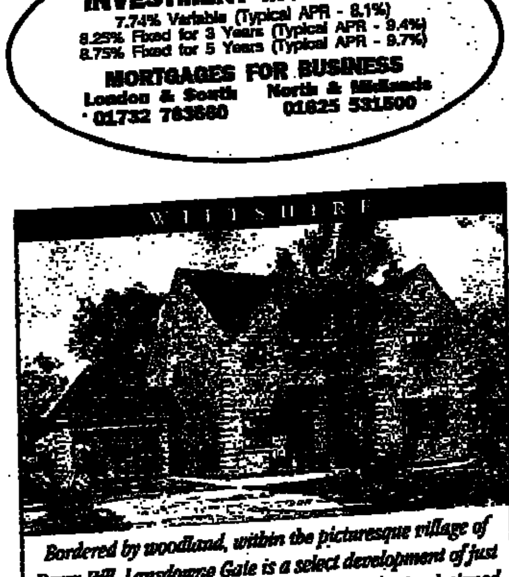

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WEDNESDAY FEB 5th • SATURDAY FEB 8th • SUNDAY FEB 9th

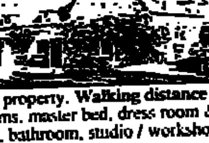
SATURDAY/SUNDAY

EDITH WESTON, RUTLAND-Charming stone property. Walking distance sailing club. 2 reception rooms, master bed, dress room & bathroom,2 further beds, bathroom, studio / workshop. Garden £PRICE TEL:NUMBER
(Max 5 lines)

Send us a photograph of your home to include in your advertisement in The Times on Wednesday

WEDNESDAY

EDITH WESTON, RUTLAND



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£PRICE
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هكذا من الأصل

In just 30 days you could transform that flabby waistline into a trim, firm tummy to be proud of

Recover a flat Stomach in only 4 minutes per day!

Without diet - without difficulty - without effort - without back or groin strain Special anatomic design - it's simple - it's easy

FOR FABULOUS ABS IN JUST 4 MINUTES A DAY!

PACKS AWAY FOR EASY STORAGE

The secret is out! Stomach muscles need abdominal exercises. Effective results require perfect bodily alignment from the head, neck, shoulders, trunk and chest. Experts maintain that unless this alignment is achieved then exercising can be pointless. Moreover, gym sessions generally include lifting weights equivalent to one third of body weight. On average, this represents between 20 and 25 kilos every lift (weight of the head, shoulders, arms and trunk). 50 lifts therefore is the equivalent to lifting a staggering 1000 to 1500 kilos.
For super athletes this may be acceptable but for most of us, particularly women this form of exercise is unrealistic and may cause cramps, pains, aches and strains and for many of us it's so hard and tiring that we usually give up before any results can be seen.

Power Roller targets exercises precisely to your abdominals

The desire particularly by women to be able to achieve a flat stomach without also creating undesirable muscular chest, arms and legs led American fitness professors to develop Power Roller. This specialist abdominal machine has been designed to concentrate all exercises on the stomach muscles without strain to the neck, shoulders and back. Power Roller has been tested by American aerobic and fitness stars (men and women) with extraordinary results. Power Roller has recently been made available to the U.S public who have purchased thousands of these precision machines. In addition, the back is held firm during exercise and effects on the lower back muscles is that of gentle strengthening.

Virtually instantaneous results without major effort

Thanks to its specially researched anatomical design achieving precisely targeted exercises. Power Roller enables you to achieve twice the amount of exercise to the stomach muscles in half the time of conventional lifts - with less effort, less risk of strain and no expensive inconvenient gym sessions. Simply follow our specially formulated gentle exercise regime which takes just 4 minutes a day to give all your abdominals a really good work out and start to see the benefits in days.

Recover that trim, slim, waistline in just 30 days

Each of the 4 specially researched Power Roller routine's take just 1 minute to complete. So you need only 4 minutes per day to get all your stomach muscles working. Results are almost instantaneously visible. Within days you will see that you are regaining a great flat stomach and within 30 days your abdominals will be firm, your waist trim and love handles gone. A toned slimmer looking you with little effort, no dieting, no aches and strains AND ALL THANKS TO YOUR POWER ROLLER. And you'll feel better and trimmer all over.

Cervical design padded headrest supports head, neck and shoulders helping to eliminate fatigue.
Built in padded headrest, armrests and handrails that comfortably and automatically support you in the correct position for comfort and optimum work out of all your abdominals.
For men and women
As seen on U.S. TV
Anatomically designed Power Roller ensures perfect body alignment to minimise effort and eliminate strain.
Specially developed exercise regime targets and concentrates 100% on lower abdominals, upper abdominals and love handles.

* FREE VIDEO WORTH £7.99 EXERCISE INSTRUCTION VIDEO WITH ALL ORDERS PLACED WITHIN 7 DAYS

POWER ROLLER - THE BENEFITS

The Power Roller is an exercise machine for people at all levels of the fitness cycle. Regular exercise has been found to help in the following areas:-

- Improvement of Muscle Tone
- Increase of circulation to vital organs
- Weight reduction due to the burning of calories in exercise
- Lowering of blood pressure
- Provides an increase in energy
- Helps to build up strength in weak muscle groups
- Attacks muscle groupings other methods can't reach
- Self Confidence - if you look good, you'll feel good
- Stress Management and tension relief
- Exercise programmes from only 3 minutes a day
- Set your own level from beginner to advance
- Lightweight but durable construction
- Easy assembly and storage

SPECIAL U.K. HALF PRICE LAUNCH OFFER MR.R.P. £79.99 ONLY £29.99 + P&P

COMPLETE WITH EXERCISE INSTRUCTION MANUAL.

Power Roller Session (1)
LE BICYCLETTE
Just 1 minute a day is enough to tighten the [illegible] abdominals

Power Roller Session (2)
LE CRUNCH OBLIQUE
Just 1 minute a day is enough to tone and firm hips and love handles

Power Roller Session (3)
LE CRUNCH
Just 1 minute a day is enough to firm, tighten and tone the upper abdominals and lower back muscles

Power Roller Session (4)
LE CRUNCH EXPLOSIVE
Just 1 minute a day is enough to exercise all your upper and lower stomach muscles and hips

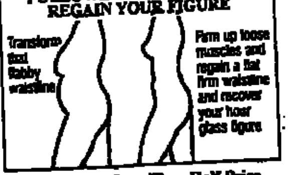
1 Min

HHS TRADING (UK) PLC Co Reg No 1806104

Quality construction - easily stored

Power Roller is constructed from the highest quality steel combining strength with lightness for ease of use. Easily assembled and dismantled for convenience. Padded headrest, armrests and rails for comfort and stability.

FOLLOWING PREGNANCY - REGAIN YOUR FIGURE



Transform that flabby waistline
Firm up loose muscles and regain a flat firm waistline and recover your hour glass figure

Power Roller Less Than Half Price Launch Offer

The manufacturers recommended U.K. selling price is £79.99. Laboratoire Medosan have negotiated an initial consignment to be offered to readers of this publication for only £29.99 plus p&p - that's less than half the manufacturers recommended price.

Power Roller 30 day no risk trial

Power Roller is now available for the first time in the U.K. and is only available by mail order to those responding promptly to this promotion. Orders will be accepted strictly in rotation. We are expecting the demand for this new product to be exceptionally high - the sooner we receive your reservation the quicker delivery can be made. Only original coupons may be used - photocopies are unacceptable. Further deliveries are uncertain due to the demand in the U.S.A. and Europe and we may not be able to maintain the low launch offer price. Please act now if you want to recover a nice flat stomach and the body of your dreams.
Order today with confidence Test Power Roller in your own home for 30 days. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied you may return your Power Roller for a full refund of the purchase price.
To order simply ring our credit card ordering service anytime day or night, or complete the coupon and post today. We promise prompt delivery to your door and satisfaction of your cash back.

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BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE - READ THIS!

Today thanks to Power Roller we know that you can eliminate a flabby looking stomach with only 4 x one minute Power Roller sessions per day.
Follow our fun exercise routine for as little as 30 days and achieve a super flat stomach and streamlined waist. Amaze your friends and get in great shape - you do want to look your best don't you?
Remember Power Roller is easy, fun and you don't need to diet or risk painful strains to achieve the figure of your dreams.

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Yes! I WISH TO RECOVER A TRIM TONED WAISTLINE IN 30 DAYS
I understand that I may return Power Roller after the 30 day trial period for a refund if I am dissatisfied in any way.
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☐ (Tick box) FREE VIDEO OFFER WORTH £7.99. I am ordering within 30 days and claim my FREE POWER ROLLER EXERCISE VIDEO.
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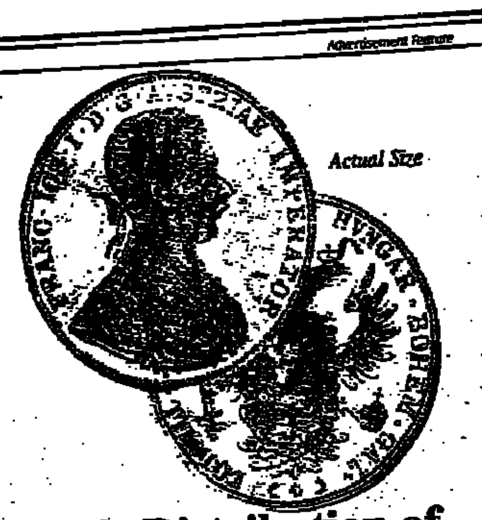


Actual Size

Historic Distribution of Austro-Hungarian Gold now taking place...

When Franz Joseph was Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire a single burst of gunfire in Sarajevo changed the course of European history. In 1914 the heir to the Hapsburg throne, Archduke Ferdinand, was assassinated as he rode through the streets of Sarajevo. This was the spark that set Europe on course for two cataclysmic wars that would dominate the first half of the 20th century.

There is strong public belief throughout the European Union that a single European currency will soon be upon us, the dreaded Euro. This has created a boom of collector and investor interest in original European national gold coins that spans nearly four centuries of European history.

For those who are lucky enough to get in on this distribution there are some massive original mint condition gold coins that date from the dawn of the 20th century. The Ducat, pronounced "Duckit," was a gold currency that circulated throughout Europe going back to the Dukes of Venice and the merchants of the Netherlands. It was the trusted medium of exchange of medieval Europe, whose traders relied on its weight and purity of gold. The Austro-Hungarian Empire issued these huge gold Four Ducats of Franz Joseph I from 1872 until 1915, although they were still minted after 1920 posthumously in his honour, bearing the date 1915.

These giant-sized gold coins are all dated 1915 and weigh in at 13.9636 grams of 98.6% pure gold. Their diameter is larger than that of a British Gold Five Pound piece, which the Royal Mint currently sell for £749.00 for new-issues.

Collectors and investors are sure to be thrilled at having the opportunity of adding one or two of these historic mint state coins to their collection. You should try your luck too. Priced at only £195.00 each, demand is expected to be enormous.

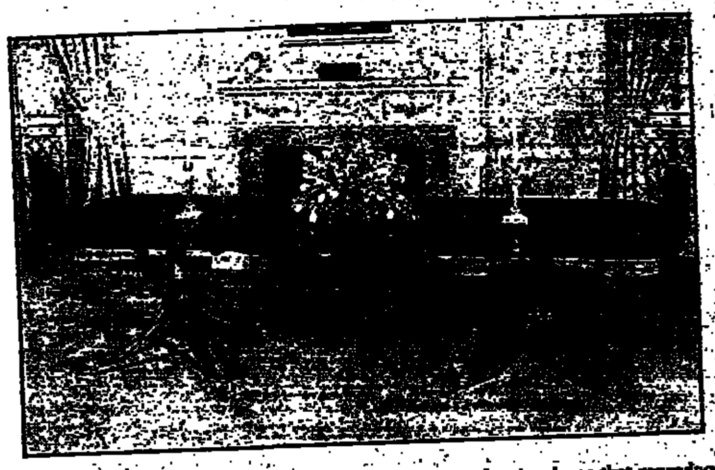
I've applied for two so that I can show front and back of this historic gold coin in my collection. The head of the Emperor Franz Joseph is on one side and the double-headed Imperial Eagle of the Hapsburg family crest is on the reverse.

If you want to get in on this golden distribution, you should call Freephone (0800) 614686 or (0181) 551-8333 to make your priority application. You can also write to the Gold & Silver Bureau at 3 Sevenways, Ilford, Essex IG2 6XH with your application. You can even use your credit card, i.e. Mastercard or Visa to spread the cost. Don't send any payment initially, successful applicants only will be notified.

A genuine piece of Austro-Hungarian treasure minted at the Austrian national mint will make a nice addition to the family's golden treasure chest!

By Joanne Glover

Recreating the period. Perfectly.



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KIA01	Insulated Mug (when you buy both the above)	FREE		FREE
			Sub total	£
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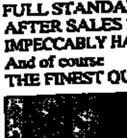

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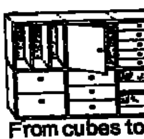

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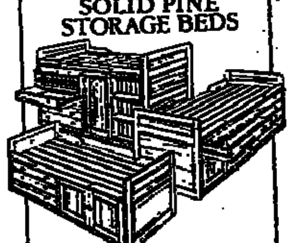

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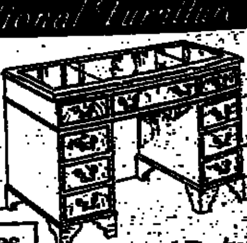

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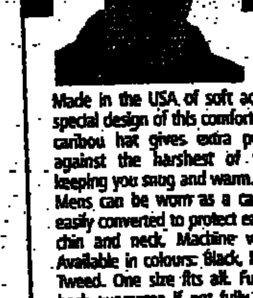

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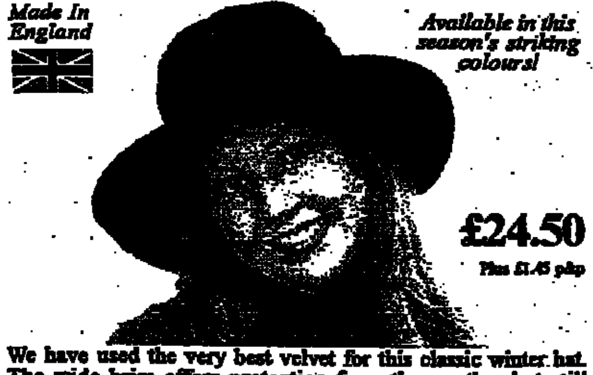

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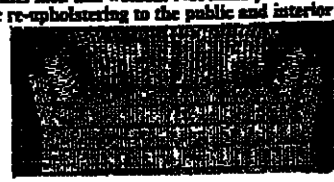

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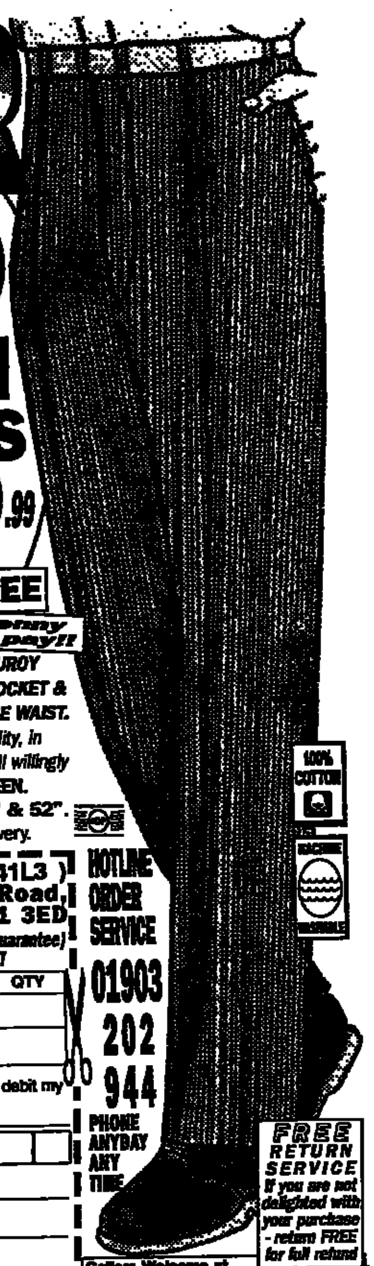

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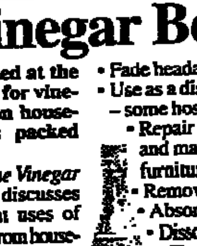

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JOHN ANGERSON

Molly Holt, known to many of Britain's 80,000 pigeon racing enthusiasts as Red Hen, with one of the 50 birds at her lofts in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. "They're therapeutic," she says

Every day in summer Molly Holt spends time at her cabin on an allotment next to her pigeon lofts. "I go there at six in the morning and come home at seven at night. It's idyllic," she says. "A little haven where I can be with the pigeons, watch them flying around and listen to their cooing. They are therapeutic."

Ms Holt, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, is one of about 80,000 pigeon racing enthusiasts, many of whom will be flocking to Blackpool this weekend for the 25th British Homing World Show of the Year at the Winter Gardens.

But what is it that inspires someone to keep pigeons?

Ms Holt discovered the joys of keeping pigeons ten years ago. "I used to be scared of them, but a friend kept pigeons and his interest transferred to me. And once you have got the bug it's hard to get away from it," she says.

Ms Holt, or Red Hen as she is known to her readers in *British Homing World*, a weekly publication for pigeon enthusiasts, keeps 50 birds of varying breeds, including the racing varieties Herman, Busschaert and Verheye. She also keeps a few fantails, a breed that many people have for their appearance rather than racing ability.

All Ms Holt's birds have their own nest boxes, in a number of homemade lofts (a new loft measuring 18ft x 6ft, which could hold up to 80 pigeons, would cost about £700-£800).

During the racing season, from April to September, she spends more than £10 a week on them, which includes food — maize, tic beans, maple peas and wheat — and the fee for each bird she enters in a race (last year it cost 47p per pigeon). Each bird is also vaccinated against paramyxo virus, a disease that can leave the pigeons debilitated.

Ms Holt's birds all have a name. Her favourite is Conqueror, because he has raced so well. Another bird originally called Ayatit ("I hate it") because of his stubbornness, had a name change when he won a race. He is now Aluvit.

She has never bought any pigeons; she has either been given pigeons or bred them. The prices normally range from £10 to more than £100,000 for a good racing pigeon. Ms Holt says that pigeon magazines carry adverts selling them and clubs often hold pigeon auctions.

This month is breeding time in Ms Holt's lofts. "I put the cock and hen together and about seven or eight days later the female will lay an egg. They make very good parents and can stay together for life. They take turns to sit on the egg. Eighteen to 20 days after laying, the egg hatches.

The baby is called a squeaker, and its initial diet is pigeon's "milk", which is feed the parents have eaten and then regurgitated, Ms Holt says. Five or six days after birth she puts a registration ring on the squeaker's right foot so that it can be identified for the rest of its life. Pigeons normally live for about 14-15 years but can go on past 20.

At one month old, she takes the bird from its parents and a couple of weeks later starts training it for racing. At first, the pigeon is taken a few hundred yards from the loft, but gradually the distance is built up. Her birds start racing from six months old and can go on until they are nine years.

Distances covered in races vary from 50 to 200 miles. "Nobody really knows what brings them home. That is what is so fascinating about the sport," Ms Holt says.

Paul Smith, a pigeon consultant, got the bug for keeping pigeons when he was eight years old. His father and grandfather both raced them. "The birds were in an old shed at the bottom of the garden. I used to sit for hours with them," he says.

Mr Smith kept pigeons as pets for about four years before starting to race them. As his passion for them grew he became both a racer and a breeder, and has also entered them at shows.

In two weeks, four of Mr Smith's pigeons will be taking on hundreds of others from all over the world in a 375-mile, $1 million race from Gariep Dam, near Colesberg, north to Sun City — somewhat dispelling the cloth-cap image of pigeon keeping.

In Blackpool this weekend, nearly 2,500 pigeons will be exhibited in 33 showing classes, including young and old pigeons, racing pigeons and cocks and hens. The judges look for alert eyes, shape of head, good feather condition and size and stance of the body.

There will also be about 160 trade stands selling anything from feed to racing clocks.

Mr Smith has been going to the show since it began 25 years ago. "It is a great opportunity for fanciers to buy whatever they need and it's a wonderful introduction for those who have never been involved in keeping pigeons," he says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

- *British Homing World Show of the Year, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Today 9am-6pm and tomorrow 9am-3.30pm. £2.50, children and OAPs £1.*
- *Royal Pigeon Racing Association, 01452 713529.*
- *Paul Smith (Regency Lofts), 01279 657519.*
- *Publications:* British Homing World *(weekly) 42p;* Pigeon Racing Gazette *(monthly) £1.20;* Racing Pigeon *(weekly) 55p,* Racing Pigeon Pictorial *(monthly) £1.95.*

A VET WRITES

Q Our cat is two years old and, since a kitten, has vomited undigested food about once a month. He does not look ill. Please comment.

A He may be a greedy cat who sometimes bites off more than his stomach can accommodate. Or, he may have intermittent fur balls and a partial blockage of his intestine. Discovering the cause of an intermittent malfunction is always difficult. Start keeping a diary. Make notes of when he vomited — time of day, day of week, how long after food, last meal and drink. Keep this up for three months, then check your records. If you don't reach a conclusion see your vet, and take the diary with you.

Q We have five guinea pigs — granny, father, mother and two youngsters. From time to time one or other develops an intense itch, caused by a mite. Bathing in medicated shampoo helps and we disinfect their pens regularly, but cannot get rid of the parasite. Any ideas?

A Guinea pigs are plagued by the mite *Trixacarus caviae*, which is often present on healthy youngsters without causing any skin problems. If they become unwell for any reason — or when pregnancy and birth put extra stress on a female cavy — the mite population increases and the itch starts, and sometimes causes a serious loss of weight. Medicated baths and a thorough cleaning of the cages will control the mites, but a few are left behind. A relatively new treatment involves injecting a parasiticide which is excreted through the skin and reaches parts other shampoos may not.

Q *Glendower, our Pembroke corgi, sleeps on his back, four legs in the air. Why does he choose this position. Comfort or display?*

A A one-word explanation might be contentment. When the soft part of his abdomen is exposed he is demonstrating confidence while in a vulnerable position. It's an efficient "heat-loss" posture, too. He is exposing as much surface area as possible to allow body heat to disperse.

JAMES ALLCOCK

- *Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

ADOPT ME

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TOM is an affectionate, neutered, seven-year-old cat who was brought to the RSPCA after his owners moved abroad. He is litter-trained and loves to be handled, so would make an excellent pet for a devoted owner.

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For more information contact the RSPCA South Godstone Animal Centre, Eastbourne Road, South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8JB (01342 893117).

Banjo is back to health

A pizza face take away

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

RACHEL KELLY

I am a sucker for before-and-after pictures. What could be more seductive than a photograph of a pizza face pitted with saucer-shaped scars and red pustules replaced by the same face without a mark?

Such pictures litter the brochure for Oxy-Peel, a range of skincare products that claim to "biologically exfoliate and oxygenate the skin, gradually removing the blemished layers which are replaced by healthy skin", so curing acne.

All this might sound like a fancy facial, more at home in a beauty column than one about alternative remedies. But the woman chemist behind the treatment, Sujata Jolly, says her patients are those for whom conventional medicine has failed, some over 20 years.

She dismisses conventional treatments, whether over-the-counter preparations such as anti-bacterial skin-washing creams, soaps and lotions and preparations using sulphur or benzoyl peroxide. "Most of them overdry the skin, making it highly sensitive and red. Benzoyl peroxide burns the surface of the skin, leaving a plastic-like film. The patient thinks the skin is greasy when, in fact, it has dried up."

Nor are antibiotics the answer, she says. Drugs such as tetracyline work by reducing skin bacteria and inflammation. They reduce the production of sebum and limit the amount of keratin blocking the glands' ducts, and clear secondary infection.

Doctors may also prescribe retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative rubbed on the skin, or anti-microbial treatments. About 800,000 prescriptions a year are issued for Minocin, one of the most commonly used drugs.

"The problems with these antibiotics, especially the strong ones such as Roaccutane, are chiefly to do with side-effects," Ms Jolly says. Doubts were raised about Minocin in January last year after a report in the *British Medical Journal* linked the drug with two deaths, 11 cases of an arthritis-like condition and 16 cases of liver damage. Conventional doctors and dermatologists largely dismissed the report.

Ms Jolly's solution is two-part. I saw her at the Hale Clinic in Regent's Park, northwest London, where she began by brushing on a foaming milk cleanser, removed later with tepid water. She said she could identify my skin's state through my make-up, but refused to label the severity of the problem, saying that all skin conditions are different.

She then applied a mask which exfoliates, thanks to its ingredient of willow tree bark supposedly unblocking the ducts. Then a mysterious, unnamed agent introduces oxygen, killing the bacteria. The treatment also speeds up skin regeneration, she claims, and leaves behind a protective coating which prevents further spots.

Ms Jolly retains an Eastern mystery about the ingredients for the products made by Dépêche Mode Laboratories by herself and her husband, Parmod.

I was left with my mask, lying on the couch in a darkened room listening to music for 35 minutes. Then Ms Jolly removed the mask to examine whether I needed further treatment: a second "amino acid and enzyme" mask which, she claims, can help improve patchy pigmentation, and post-acne scarring; or an "alkaline" peel which softens pitted acne scars and crusty skin.

In the event, I needed just the first mask. "See for yourself. Look in the mirror," she said. Yes, my skin did seem lighter and brighter. She gave me a bottle of the foaming milk to take away, a zap-it bottle to treat spots, and "Revitale cream special" to moisturise.

How I hope it works. I have tried and abandoned antibiotics in the past for the reasons which Ms Jolly outlined, and am living witness to the reddening and drying effects of many over-the-counter treatments.

Following the treatment my skin does seem less spotty, but it is early days and Ms Jolly says I need several more visits.

My only caveat is the complete dismissal of such treatment by conventional experts. Dr Ian White, consultant dermatologist at St Thomas' Hospital, London, has never heard of Oxy-Peel.

"There are so many products like this about," he says. "Everything from shark bile to tea-tree oil. The fact is that you need data and trials to prove this, whereas most of these alternative remedies rely on anecdote."

- *For details of the nearest therapist, call 01628 74644.*
- *Sujata Jolly, Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1N 3HE (0171-631 0156).*

Patient with Oxy-Peel mask

Oxy-Peel

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- **Advantages:** no known side effects and pleasant to experience.
- **Disadvantages:** no clinical trials and dismissed by conventional doctors.
- **Cost:** £40 for a session of 75 minutes.

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THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

هكذا من الأصل

Where there's a will, they want be in it

PERSONAL LIFE

It may seem trivial when compared to other people's misfortunes, but I am in a quandary — I have *nobody* to leave my money to.

This was brought home recently when I was asked to nominate three people who would get my death-in-service benefit after I die, thereby bestowing four times my annual salary on whoever I might suggest.

And then there is my house, the collection of dolls' houses and the Jack Russell terrier, who is beyond price.

Three of my cousins died in accidents in their twenties and the newspapers are full of people who fall off mountains, are electrocuted by the lawn mower or meet other untimely ends. So it seemed sensible, therefore, not to put it off any longer, but to make a will and not to leave my loved ones squabbling over my estate.

As I have no children, the obvious choice for a legacy would be the man in my life, but since we tend to go everywhere together and his driving rather calls to mind making a will, it would seem much more sensible to have a Plan B.

It is Plan B that is the problem. It is not that I do not have any relatives — being half-Irish I have droves of them — but who is the most deserving?

I made a list of nieces (five) and nephews (three) and other young relations, but then started crossing out those who had failed to fit my inheritance guidelines. The impertinent ones were the first to go. The pen also went through the niece who sneered at my collection of dolls' houses ("but what are they for?"); the niece who refused to turn her music down ("you're just old") and the nephew who said books were boring.

Another line went through the young relative, an otherwise lovely girl, who recently received a police caution for smoking what my father insists on calling "marry-jew-arna". What she obviously needs is *less* money, not more, since we now know what she spends it on.

Then I came to a young niece I was particularly fond of, realised I had not spoken to her for a while and rang to ask if she had liked her Christmas present.

"Oh yah, lovely, thank you Auntie Mary." There was a pause. Then she said: "What was it again?"

She had received a car from her mother and a mobile telephone from her father and my carefully chosen gift must have seemed paltry by comparison. The best thing for her is not a large bequest, but a good slapping and the sooner the better.

Two of the nieces also have rich parents, and since there are only *two of them they can both look* forward to about a million quid each — *and that is at today's prices.*

My family has been obsessed by wills, their own and other people's, since Uncle Arthur was killed in Tobruk when a Naafi tea urn fell on him.

His gravestone inscription said "killed in action" and since he was running for a consignment of Red Cross doughnuts, I suppose there was some truth in it.

Being Irish, a nurse and a believer, my mother has no fear of death and often talks about "when I'm gone", usually while she is sitting by the fire smoking her pipe.

I tell her not to worry because only the good die young. She has talked about her own will for so long that it has become a family joke ("let's grease the stairs tonight", etc). *The will is also* changed on a regular basis, my *sisters and I flitting through it* from time to time according to the suitability of our boyfriends. I have had more comebacks than Gary Glitter.

This will neurosis has been passed on. My eldest sister keeps hers on the bedside table, making it easily accessible and soon altered should anyone offend her.

She spends a fortune at the solicitor's. She is also a great housekeeper — gets divorced, keeps the house — so she won't be needing anything from me.

At the moment, if I die without a will, my earthly goods will automatically go (via the taxman) to my parents and, charming though they are, they have a large house and do not need the money. Thanks to compulsory sport and a decent private education, my four siblings are in the same position.

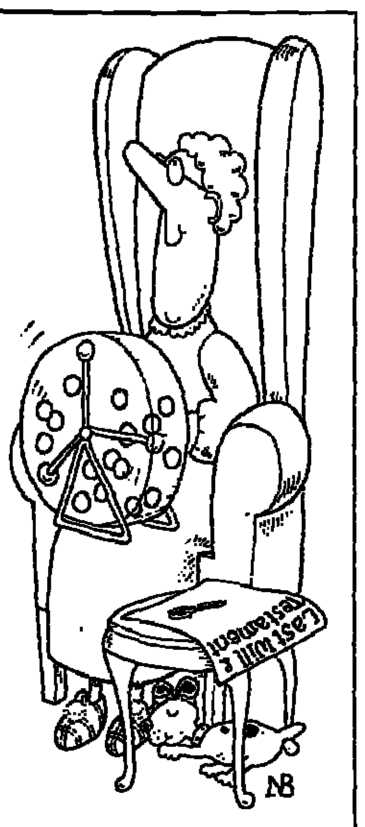
So what are we left with? Charity, I suppose. I dug out a table of charities that benefit from wills. The last annual count ran thus: the RNLI (£38 million); Imperial Cancer Research (£32 million); the Cancer Research Campaign (£32 million); the National Trust (£24 million) and the RSPCA (£23 million). Now, these are fine organisations, but I balk at the thought of my money disappearing into a large pot with lots of other people's.

I cannot leave it to Jumble (the Jack Russell) because I am against leaving money to individual animals and, as she only eats 50p-worth of food a day, the money would long outlast her.

So what I really want is for someone, some day, to think of me fondly and say, "Good old Auntie Mary, she helped me get to Cambridge, play the piano, made me what I am today, etc".

Ideally that someone should be a Jack Russell fan who likes dolls' *houses. Applications should reach* me before the appointment with Raymond Harris, my solicitor, on January 29.

MARY GOLD



What shall we do with mother?

The choice of who should care for an elderly parent is fraught with guilt, says **Jill Parkin**

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Eileen House and her daughter Geraldine Marsh in Purley View Nursing Home. "I vowed I wouldn't be a burden on my children," says Mrs House

The world was different in Eileen House's day. Home was a place where there was a woman looking after a husband, children and maybe an old parent, too. Increasingly today, those parents are in another sort of home. More than half a million of our old people are in long-stay care. Only a quarter of them have any say in a decision which is often fraught with guilt for their grown-up children.

Mrs House is 80. She looked after her widowed father at home for seven years, she moved house to help bring up some of her grandchildren, and she nursed her sick husband until she had to go to hospital herself. He died in a residential home three weeks after she became a long-stay resident in a nursing home.

"I always vowed I wouldn't be a burden on my children," she says. She came to Purley View Nursing Home in Purley, south London, in March last year. Her daughter, Geraldine Marsh, chose it.

"My house just isn't suitable for her disability. I've got steps, steps, steps. Mum can't be alone for very long, and she needs nursing," says Mrs Marsh. "Life is a struggle. If I didn't work we wouldn't be in very good shape. We have a two-bedroom house and my son lives at home."

They are a mother and daughter of our time — full of concern for each other, seeing each other a lot, but living in different worlds. As usually happens, the decision was taken at a moment of crisis: Mrs House was in hospital after a series of falls and a stroke. After discussion with her sisters, Mrs Marsh began to search for a suitable home.

She did a thorough job, seeing ten homes within visiting reach, and she chose well, but there is still a note of justification in her voice when she talks about the "steps, steps, steps". The guilt factor has grown almost as fast as the care industry which looks after our old people.

Joan Lewis of the Elderly Accommodation Counsel, an information service on accommodation for old people, says: "Relatives should remember that although the older person may not feel very happy at the idea, in nine out of ten cases, if one chooses the right home, within a few months they are happier than they have been for ages. In a good home, they get companionship, cooking and cosseting. People really should not feel guilty. It's a bit like sending children to boarding school. They cry their eyes out when they go but by half-term they don't want to leave."

With Mrs House and her daughter there was no acrimony, but often the very subject is taboo, says Mrs Lewis. "Broaching such a move seems to cause almost as much embarrassment as discussing the possibility of a death in the family. The younger people will not bring the matter up for fear of upsetting their elders. And the older people will not admit that they cannot cope."

More and more families are having to broach the subject and make the decision. According to Lang and Buisson, healthcare market analysts, we now have 1,090,000 people aged over 85, compared with 472,000 in 1971. We have half a million old people in long-stay care, compared to 270,000 in 1970. We no longer all live near our parents.

Caring for elderly parents in the family has not completely died out, though it may not always go all the way to the grave. Nigel and Angela Best now live in her mother Betty's house in West Sussex. Mr Best, a builder, has turned a detached garage into a granny annexe with alarms and intercom in case Betty, 75, has a fall.

"It has worked well for all of us," says Mrs Best, who is at home with two small children. "My mother had a stroke and was seriously considering selling up to buy sheltered accommodation. This house was far too big for her. We'd just had another baby and needed more space but couldn't afford it. My mother has helped us out and we're here for her. I don't know what will happen in the future, but I'm going to be at home until the younger child is at school, so the arrangement should last a few years."

Peter and Clare Dobbs, who live a few miles away, are wondering if their similar arrangement may be coming to an end. They bought a large vicarage jointly with Mr Dobbs's parents, who lived in one part of it. "It meant they saw their grandchildren growing up, we knew they were okay, and we had babysitters, as well as a lovely house with a big garden for a relatively small mortgage," he says.

Then his mother died and his father, who is 81, has gradually deteriorated well beyond the babysitting point. "We used to have a rule," says Mrs Dobbs, "that it was two independent households coming and going as they pleased. It's different now."

She, as the one who works from home, now shops for her father-in-law and takes a hot meal in to him once a day. She does his washing and pays her cleaner for an extra hour a week to do his rooms.

"He has become our responsibility," she says. "From the point of view of his welfare, the arrangement is still a good one. I can't imagine that he would ever leave us for a residential home."

Mrs House, however, chose otherwise. "I accepted the decision because I wanted to save the burden on my children," she says. "I don't want them to be worn into the ground. When I was in my flat, Geraldine was phoning four times a day and she was coming in a lot. She was making herself ill and I didn't like watching her so concerned over me.

"Now she can get off the bus coming from work, see me, and get on the bus to go home. She comes twice a week. She was coming every day, but I stopped her because she was getting so worn out."

Long-stay care need not mean the end of family care, according to Jenny Stiles, the director of the Relatives Association, a charity for people with relatives in long-stay care. She says those running homes can help by making relatives feel more welcome.

"Many relatives feel they have failed the resident when they give up personal caring, even if no other course was possible," she says. "Often they have very mixed emotions: they want the home to look after the person, but they don't want to be cut out completely."

"Coming to a nursing home wasn't what I wanted: I'd never thought about it," says Mrs House. "But Geraldine made sure I came to a good one. When the other residents go, I miss them. They are like an extended family, the people I stop to chat to on my way to and from my room."

The world has changed. An extended family was once children, parents and grandparents. Now it is the care industry as well.

- *The Relatives Association (0171-916 6055) is a charity for those with an elderly relative or friend in long-term care. It offers advice and support, as well as working for better standards of care.*
- *The Elderly Accommodation Counsel (0181-742 1182) is a charity offering information on homes, sheltered and retirement housing. It does not recommend establishments or place people, but tries to fit the home to the person.*

In death, we can find life

Ruth Gledhill on consolation and hope in an Anglo-Catholic Mass

AFTER six months living on Epsom Downs, my conscience was being prodded by various newsletters and the occasional gift envelope dropped through the door by the faithful laity of the local parish church, and I could no longer ignore the call to check it out. It was with a sense of subliminal suburban joy that I surveyed the little red-brick, low-roofed mid-war church with its manicured lawn and cultivated flowerbeds in the heart of Nork, Surrey.

The gratification was short-lived, however, although the sense of belonging remained. Because, as is so often the case, behind the façade of serene normality, real life in the suburbs is as filled with tragedy, trauma, grief and sorrow as in the most outwardly deprived area of any inner city.

Our celebrant was the Rev William Gulliford, curate of the neighbouring parish. This was because for four years the parish of St Paul's has been living with the terminal illness of the wife of the Rev Peter Brooks, its vicar. Elaine Brooks, like millions of others, had fought a brave battle against cancer, and at times it had seemed she might win. But at the last the disease gained the upper hand, and she died later that day. Father Brooks, an Anglo-Catholic, had told me of his wife's illness over the telephone. My instant response had been that I could not attend the church that day, and certainly could not write about the service. In the circumstances, I could not conceive of awarding stars for anything, let alone for "spiritual high". I almost begged not to go. But he insisted. "Life must go on," he said. I felt ashamed for my lack of faith.

The service was remarkable. The liturgy, inspired by the Orthodox faith, was an adaptation of that used by monks at the Crawley Down monastery on the Surrey-Sussex border, an order devoted to prayers for unity. And while the Mass was based firmly in the Tractarian or Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England, many other traditions were also united there. For example, the choir had long since abandoned formal robes. Instead, they wore sweatshirts in the colour of red wine, the golden flame of the Holy Spirit emblazoned on the front. These sweatshirts, designed by the vicar, have proved so popular that many in the congregation wore them as well.

The sanctuary lamp was lit that day in thanksgiving for the vicar's family. The atmosphere was muted and sorrowful, although hope was there. In the newsletter, Father Peter had written: "I will not be around today because Elaine's life is drawing close to the end." But the church would continue to be open, with daily morning prayer as usual and evening prayer if enough were interested.

The curate, Father William, sat before the high altar, the vicar's son Richard, as thurifer, swinging Byzantine incense. Through the sweet-smelling clouds of smoke, I could make out a woman MC and various acolytes, including two girl taperers, a boat boy and a crucifer. They had processed down the aisle as the congregation sang the *Gloria*, after a member of the choir led the confession and absolution. We heard readings from Isaiah and the Acts of the Apostles.

Father William at St Paul's

"Today for us has a double-edged quality about it," Father William said in his sermon. "In the context of this time, this is not unlike a vigil, a time to reflect on the sadness, like the sadness of Good Friday, for all of us here. Yet we have just sung the Easter alleluias. The Christian song we sing every Sunday is the proclamation of the message of the resurrected Christ, who comes and stands with us each week to be in our midst and affirm the message and resurrection of hope in Christ."

He preached on the Resurrection which followed Good Friday, and its message for all in the parish that day. "I cannot say I am pleased to be with you today. In normal circumstances I would not be here. But I am pleased to be able to do something for Father Peter and the family." It was the feast day of the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist, he said, and the collect had spoken of surrender. "The baptism of Christ is the symbol of Christ's surrender of himself. As we grow into our own baptisms we discover what it is to surrender ourselves."

Afterwards, we said the Creed and responded to the intercessory prayers. The congregation joined in the peace. Many surrendered to their tears but the Mass ended with communion and a sense that after so much pain, there could be peace.

- *St Paul's Church, Warren Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1LG (01737 353849).*

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VICAR: The Rev William Gulliford

ARCHITECTURE: Elegant *simplicity* ★★★

HOMILY: Father William said: "Death teaches us that the more deeply we enter into communion, so the more radically we must become detached and non-possessive." ★★★★★

LITURGY: Eastern and monastic. Beautiful. ★★★★

MUSIC: Mixed choir led us in responses and hymns. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Faith in the Resurrection. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea, home-made cake and hot buttered toast plus chance to meet new neighbours in the church hall next door. ★★★★★

هكذا من الأصل

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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THE TIMES

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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DERBYSHIRE/*Staffordshire. New* Year New Life Now Partner. Call now Elite Introductions 01773 811055 *01543 460911*

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ARE you *passionate, fun, intelligent,* rich and know how to enjoy it, living central London, 35+? So am *I and I'm looking for a soulmate.* Please Reply with photo & phone and number to Box *No 2452*

ASTON MARTIN wanted preferably with *50 yr old* owner who has everything except the woman of his dreams - Wake up *Dreamer* - *I'm here!* (West London/Surrey) Box No 2516

ATTRACTIVE. Honest genuine loving fit Sussex lady seeks dark *haired tall* solvent male 46-56 n/s any nationality for lasting meaningful relationship. *Photo please.* Box No 2534

ATTRACTIVE, *39, single, n/s.* WLTM sincere, caring, professional male *ready for commitment. London based. Photo/tel.* no to Box No 2726

BERKS, Bucks, Herts & Oxon Gentlemen. Elite Introductions - let us help you find a new partner in 1997. Call now, no obligation - 0500 003 444 (Oxon-01869 337 373) (7 days)

LADIES

BEAUTIFUL, wealthy woman seeks beautiful wealthy man 50+ Yorkshire based. *Please reply* with Photo to Box No 2442

BOURNEMOUTH 20m radius. No 1 *for* 100's *of* lovely ladies waiting now. Call Elite Introductions 01202 891600

CAMBRIDGE/*East Anglia.* Join Elite Introductions locally. Freecall now 0500 103410

CHESHIRE Sensual lady, late 40's, unpretentious, seeks above average quality gent (40-50's) *for* meaningful relationship. Homeloving, well travelled, sport, children, soulmate, quality Sancerre evenings. Definitely no time wasters. Photo to Box 2721

CLASS Act - 37, stunning, petite, bubbly blonde, honest sincere & romantic seeks similar charismatic guy 35-45 to love us *both forever. Northeast.* Photo please to Box No 2720

COSMOPOLITAN, world travelled, slim, petite, pretty blonde. Adores horseracing (Cheltenham 2nd home!), enjoys theatre, dining out etc, but plays atrocious *golf.* Seeks interesting, honest, solvent gentleman successful & spontaneous 49-59 to show me a little tenderness. Northants Oxon based. Photo/tel no to Box No 2658

COTSWOLDS lady looking for kind solvent man, 50-60, tall-ish with GSOH to share *all* things beautiful, to make her attractive face light up & smile, her slim body quiver, & her brown hair shine. Willing to travel. Photo plse. Box 2747

CREATIVE, attractive town/country woman WLTM interesting, aware man 45-60 to share good food, wine, & conversation. London/ *Glos./Wilts.* Reply Box No 2543

CUDDLY, kind-hearted, intelligent lady, 38, well travelled, unconventional, sometimes funny WLTM gentleman. Kindness and character and humour more important than looks. ALA. *Box No 2656*

DEVON/Cornwall. For Special People for 1997 - Call Elite Introductions 01803 845512

DEVON/*Somerset. The Agency for* professionals. Personal. Secure. Confidential. Elite Introductions 01458 *210120*

DISCERNING, tall, intelligent, 50's lady *WLTM genuine, successful,* socially aware, 6ft+, 55-62. London/Southeast. *Photo essential. Box No 2722*

***EAST COAST** Warmer than the* wind, 38, with zest. Distance no object. Good teeth essential. Reply *to Box No 2730*

DO you like things natural and cultural, nights in and *nights* out, with sense of fun, adventure and responsibility then attractive prof *woman,* 42, WLTM you. Central Lancs area. If like me you have never done anything like this *before* plse reply with photo to Box 2700

ECLECTIC blonde, intellectual, stylish & slim. Enjoys jazz, Greek islands, philosophy, living & much more. Seeks confident, interesting man 50-65 to make an already good life even more enjoyable. London based. Photo/tel no. to Box No 2714

EDUCATIONAL Psychologist. Slim, glamorous widow seeks intelligent, witty man (40+). Box No 2528

EXCEPTIONAL attractive lady 50's wants exceptional gentleman under 65. London based. Photo please. Box No 2768

FAMILY man, kind, caring, slim & fit, enjoying traditional values is sought by homeloving, yet sophisticated, well travelled N/S slim blonde (mid 40's), affectionate with GSOH, & mother of 1 child. Berks/ Hants bdrs. Photo plse to Box 2688

GOOD looks, a great career, wonderful *friends, intelligence* and outgoing personality. I have everything except a man to share it *all* with. He should be 28-36, successful, sincere, tall, sociable, cultured and enjoy sailing, country walks, travel and all the finer things in life. Bristol/London. Photo please to Box No 2609

LADIES

GREAT-LOOKING exotic brunette, *30, 5'7", petite figure,* N.S. no ties, East Mids/Derbys. *Loves* travel, skiing, countryside, motorbikes, *life & anything* exciting. Like me, you're highly intelligent, articulate, clean, confident, broadminded, witty, affectionate & sexy with discerning tastes. Unlike me, you're 5'9" or over, *stocky,* hairy-chested & unafraid of anyone! Viable contenders age 25-40 send photo & letter really worthy of a reply. Box No 2740

GTR MANCHESTER - Surrounding area. Still looking for someone special? Elite *Introductions* can help call now 0161 628 3518 open 7 days

HAPPY New Love, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Staffordshire. *Meet someone* special from over 700 local members. Call Elite Introductions now open 7 *days Freecall* 0500 003444

HELP! Mutual life support wanted. Spirited, slim, attractive grad, seeks secure, sympatique chap 50-60. Herts/France. Photo. Box 2715

HOLLAND PARK Independent widow WLTM an old *fashioned* 'smoking and drinking' gentleman who is free to travel and *will* partner *her at tennis,* golf and bridge, although other suggestions might be considered. Box 2663

INTELLIGENT, very attractive *female,* 32, seeks tactile, well healed, cultured, adventurous gentleman 35+. I'm glamorous, *self confident, happy,* love good food & wine, dancing & travelling. You are powerful in every sense, *successful,* sensuous & worldly. Let's Rendezvous. London. Photo/tel no. *Reply Box 2621*

JERSEY lady 42 yrs with 2 children *aged nearly 14yrs* and 7 yrs would like to meet a Gentleman with view to marriage and share *life* and love together. I work in the finance world, would like a kind and *affectionate* man, intelligent, warm and a great sense of humour. If you feel the right *man then reply to Box No 2428*

KENT/Croydon/SE London. New Year. *New Start.* Meet someone special through Elite Introductions. Ring Tina 0181 658 7576

LET'S get together! Attractive funloving prof lady, tall, slim, long dark hair & green eyes seeking prof goodlooking guy. 30-48 with "wicked" sense of humour! Photo appreciated. Box No 2728

LEEDS, York, H'gte. Alone and rather not be? Give Fate a helping hand Call Catharine Elite Introductions 01937 587933

LINGUIST very attractive blonde female, green eyed early 30's seeks intelligent, attractive successful doctor/solicitor or professional business gentleman 30's-40's for romance & future relationship. Yorks. based. Photo to Box No 2762

LONDON/*Enfield.* Join Elite Introductions locally. Why not call us now 0181 374 4001

LADIES

LOVELY English lady seeks kind, caring (husband material) to love and cherish. *I am* late 40's and live in Cambridgeshire. Please reply Box No 2756

MAN wanted by beautiful voluptuous, black glamour puss (30). You must be tall, kind, considerate, generous & unafraid of creepy crawlies especially spiders. Please send photo/ phone no & CV! NB: *single applicants* only. If your wife doesn't understand you, then why the devil should I? London based. Box No 2695

MIND'S EYE Introduction for Kent/ London professional singles. Free Membership until March 1. Tel: 0800-435 922.

MUSLIM lady, attractive, mid 30's, independent yet traditional, enjoying *laughter & life* WLTM prof man, similar background, cheerful, tall, good looking & *genuine,* N/S. Bucks based. Photo to Box No 2703

NOTTS/*Leics/Lincs* Success after success. 100's of quality ladies. Call now *for free details - Elite* Introductions 0115 987 6104

PETITE, attractive, 30s, brunette loves sunshine, life, friends and fun. WLTM strong, caring, a good looking professional man 30-45. Photo please. London/ Home Counties. Box No 2614

PETITE, attractive, dark haired professional lady seeks fun loving & caring man, 45-65. Bristol/ Bath/Wilts area. Photo please to Box No 2659

PRETTY Woman with Black & Decker, living 18th century Lincs cottage, dark haired/dark eyed, WLTM tall prof man 40-50 to share skiing, cooking, country walks, candlelit dinners & much more. Box 2707

RETIRED Christian lady with *young* at heart outlook WLTM caring gentleman. My interests include music, walking, theatre, reading and good conversation. In confidence contact New Day Introductions, 5, Vale Terrace, Waterfoot, Rossendale, BB4 9JQ Tel 01706 224049

SHROPSHIRE/N Wales. Elite Intros *for* that special partner freephone 0500 300336

RUSSIAN woman, 33, professional, attractive, tall WLTM similar man, kind & sincere. Photo please. Box No 2706

SPIRITED, independent, professional *London* woman, 50s, tall, stylish, easygoing, seeks entertaining man for lively outings. Box No 2522

LADIES

SINGERS, beautiful, stylish lady, Jewish, late 40's, wishes to *enhance the well being of a* young at heart, warm, cultured, affectionate, wealthy gentleman who appreciates family life, friends, laughter, walks in the park, Chopin & cruises. London based. Box No 2601

SLENDER attractive, sporty blue eyed blonde, early 40's, enjoys tennis, watersports, theatre, wining & dining. Successful career precludes meeting a dynamic, affluent fun-loving man who is affectionate, tactile, 45-55 based in Southeast. I am seeking a genuine long term relationship N/S. Photo essential. Reply to Box No 2627

STEVENAGE/AL SG postcodes. Join Elite Introductions locally. Freecall now 0500 103410

ST ALBANS, Welwyn, *Luton. Elite Introductions the professional* service for professional people. Call Suzanne; 01582 831831

SUSSEX, East and West. Still looking for the right partner? We can help. Call Nigel at Elite Introductions 01273 270975

TALL, attractive, successful, professional lady in her 40s seeks similar in a man with a view to enjoying a meaningful relationship. *Box No 2729*

TALL, slim, attractive, jewish lady, late 40's N/O, N/S, WTLM slim gentleman 5'10" +, nice hair, GSOH. Reply to Box 2212

LADIES

THE World is full of fascinating things to see and do. Slim, stylish, lively, attractive London based n/s blonde seeks company of cultured gentleman 50-65ish preferably arts orientated for sampling its delights. Please Reply to Box No 2683

THOROUGHLY nice woman, intelligent, stylish, fun loving, attractive, financially OK, NW London seeks similar, tallish man (55-70) for lasting romance. Photo/tel no. appreciated. Box *No 2647*

TWINKLE twinkle little star how I wonder where you are? London based petite blonde, attractive, well presented, vivacious, 30 something, lady working in travel industry. I love wining, dining, walking, swimming, movies, music and dancing. WLTM tall, dark, handsome, well presented genuine, kind, City type 35-45ish, social drinker-light n/s with GSOH for companionship, possibly more *Photo* ensures reply Bx 2702

VIVACIOUS, attractive lady lawyer, 34, seeks nice playful man for sincere committed relationship/family. London based. Photo please. Box 2698

LADIES

WAKE Up! We are on your doorstep. Thames Valley, Watford, Harrow Close Encounters 01753 *692969* 01923 840425

WARM, lively woman, 48, seeks male, preferably good conversationalist, interested in classical music, books, cinema and politics. Cardiff based but loves travel. Box No 2518

WARM Scottish lass (grown up), university grad, tall, slim, very fit & N/S. WLTM interesting, solvent, prof university educated man 50-60, kind & gentle but strong, able to express himself physically & emotionally. You will be like me, gregarious, spontaneous & enjoy skiing, walking, the Arts, etc. Edinburgh. Photo to Box 2733

WELSH born, attractive well educated, cultured, stylish, professional woman, enjoys history, classical music & country pursuits. Seeks kind, solvent, gentleman 55+. North Wales, Cheshire, Midlands preferred. Reply to Box No 2643

YORKS Humberside Lincs 100's of lovely ladies Call Elite Intros Freecall 0500 525240

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

GENTLEMEN

AFFECTIONATE entrepreneur, 49, separated, considered tactile with lots of TLC, GSOH, seeks a special lady 30-45, who will be first and foremost a friend, and then, who knows? My interests are varied and include theatre, classical music, walks, cars, and mutual TLC. Boring people need not apply. *Photo* appreciated and all letters answered. London/ Home Counties. Box No 2684

ANDOVER/Salisbury 25 mile radius. Yes! People like you at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open seven days

ARCHITECT, successful, in 40's, 5'10" tall, slim, genuine, attractive, tennis/ squash /music/home lover, family man. Seeks slim 30-40 attractive elegant, n/s professional female in Surrey area for a future together. Please send details and photo. Box No 2618

ARE you genuine, caring, honest, attractive, cultured, n/s lady, 30-40? I am tall, handsome, educated, 39ish, love skiing, riding, travel, animals, town and country life. Plse write with photo for lunch/dinner date London/Suffolk. Bx 2757

ARE you 50-60, comely, shapely, warm, and looking for love/commitment with a tall, attractive, caring and interesting man. If so please write with photo. You won't be disappointed. London Area. Reply to Box No 2723

ARE you slim, 40ish? Intelligent, witty, sassy, enjoy most things in life. If so, 50 year old romantic professional, new to London would like to meet you. Box 2645

ARTICULATE, amusing, good looking, single, professional, 41, Jewish, seeks an attractive, entirely uncommitted cultured lady, under 35. No reply without photo & 'phone no! Reply to Box No 2759

ARTISTIC, handsome, tall, slim, businessman Nottingham based seeks n/s, intelligent, slim, attractive lady under 40. Photo with letter ensures reply Please reply Box 2624

BERKS, Bucks, Herts & Oxon Ladies. Elite Introductions - let us help you find a new partner in 1997. Call now, no obligation - 0500 003 444 (Oxon-01869 337 373) (7 days)

GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE, slim, professional whose interests include shooting, fishing & riding. Own shoot & *Forest property.* Looking for intelligent, slim, attractive girl 35-42 with similar interests to share all things bright & beautiful. Hants/ Wilts /Dorset. Photo preferred. Box No 2681

BALLROOM and Latin dance partner, 36 years old, 5'10", male, single, 2 years experience, East Midland based, photo appreciated. Plse Reply Box 2725

BOURNEMOUTH 20m radius. No 1 for 100's of gentlemen waiting now. Call Elite Introductions 01202 891600

BORN early - mid July 1950? Slimmish 'Cancerian Tiger' please contact enthusiastic 'Scorpio Horse' South Bx 2665

BRUISED Oxbridge Doctor, 53, seeks solvent, sympathetic, attractive lady, 35-50, to share life. Rewards? Excitement, travel, romance, involvement. Photo please. Box No 2642

CANADIAN Writer, distinguished, attractive, young (43) single dad seeks attractive (inside and out) adventurous British lady. Starts as long distance relationship but can grow. Photo please. Reply to Box No 2324

COTSWOLD Cottage needs sound of laughter and TLC as does its 50 year old owner! If you are slim and under 45 still with a twinkle in your eye then reply with photo Please Box No 2696

COURCHEVEL? St Anton? Maybe even Red Mountain? Director 40's seeks skier soul mate (n/s). North London Bx 2322

DARE I seek a very slim, naturally attractive woman?, This decent (Pierce Brosnan look alike allegedly!) young (40) divorced professional wishes to find you. Surrey. ALA. Photo please to Box 2650

DESIGNER 33, blonde, blue eyes, Kevin Costner/ish, happy with life except intelligent pretty woman 25-35 missing. London Photo appreciated Bx 2632

DEVON/Cornwall. For Special People for 1997 - Call Elite Introductions 01803 845812.

DIVORCEE 36 and country cottage, both in need of a little restoration. If you are an honest, independent, easy-going 30-something lady who's handy with a paint brush then perhaps you can help? Photo appreciated, but an image of your personality and intellect is far more important. East Anglia/South East. Box No 2537

DOES water make you happy? Pisces male 50ish, in good order, kind & generous seeks very pretty younger woman (35-45), N/S with personality & sense of humour for fun times, champagne by the river, holidays, walks on the beach, dinners out, log fires London/ country living. Photo absolutely essential. Box No 2753

GOOD LOOKING lawyer, 48, likes keep fit, riding, cinema, walks WLTM attractive independent female South Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 2654

HANDSOME highly successful afro Caribbean gentleman, 42, 5'10" seeks committed relationship with an attractive lady to share his interests in classical music, theatre, art, sport and dining out. Photo essential. S. East. Close Encounters. Please Reply to Box No 2710

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HANDSOME, refined, energetic cultured, cosmopolitan, unattached, solvent businessman, 46, shares his time between Europe and England Seeks intelligent, cultured, fun loving lady any age, any nationality based in London for socialising, theatre, restaurants, friendship and fun. Photo welcome. Reply to Box No 2664

INTELLECTUAL Scandinavian, tall, sporty, N/S, 39, likes literature and languages WLTM intelligent, slim lady for a serious relationship and fun. Cambs. *Photo pls. Box 2724*

KENT/Croydon/SE London. New Year. *New Start.* Meet someone special with Elite Introductions Ring Tina 0181 658 7576

LEEDS, York, H'gte. Alone and rather not be? Give Fate a helping hand Call Catharine Elite Introductions 01937 587933

LONDON/Counties very successful businessman, 40, good looking, stylish, amusing, confident, no ties. Many interests. Looking for a special lady to share life and exciting lifestyle. If you're tallish, elegant, sexy, active, fun and late 20's-30's I'd love to hear from you. Phone & photo appreciated. Box 2432

LOVING, kind, strong, tactile 6'1" male 49, eligible professional cultured into art & fitness. Seeks slim lady to share fun & romance. S. London/Surrey Photo appreciated. Box 2616

MIND'S EYE Introduction for Kent/ London professional singles. Free Membership until March 1. Tel: 0800-435 922.

NORTH-EAST. *Successful,* intelligent, educated, down-to-earth, athletic, professional man, 39, divorced, WLTM intelligent, attractive, affectionate woman approx 25-30 yrs. Please Reply to Box No 2739

NOTTS/*Leics/Lincs* Success after success. 100's of quality gentlemen. For Free details Elite Introductions 0115 937 6104

SMART 49 yr old, sincere, romantic, likes theatre, restaurants, travel. WLTM 40-50 yr old slimline, no ties, N/S. London/Essex area. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 2691

SOMERSET/Devon The Agency for professionals. Personal. Secure. Confidential. Elite Introductions 01458 210120

ST ALBANS, Welwyn, Luton. Elite Introductions the professional service *for professional* people. Call Suzanne; 01582 831831

SUNSHINE investor seeks thunder and lightening! Sports executive, 39, Canadian, based in Dubai, desires vivacious inspiration to share incandescent lifestyle. Athletic physique, romantic heart, cheerful disposition, genuine soul. Tennis, hockey, golf zealot. Piano, computer, language studies. Chess, politics, horse endeavours. Blue skies and beautiful smiles guaranteed. *Life is a tango.* Let's dance! Please reply to Box No 2513

SUSSEX, East and West. Still looking for the right partner? We can help. Call Nigel at Elite Introductions 01273 270975

USA man 54 tall home no kids n/s gsoh seek attr white lady 40's curvy figure not thin buxom light eyes n/s. PO Box 88-1303 Los Angeles, California. photo.

WAKE *Up! We are on your doorstep.* Thames Valley, Watford, Harrow Close Encounters *01753 692969 01923 840425*

WIDOWER 54 professional retired considering purchase of holiday home in Cyprus seeks lady companion as partner in joint venture. Please reply with photo to Box No 2585

YORKS Humberside Lincs 100's of stylish gentlemen Call Elite Intros Freecall 0500 525240

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

GAY, fit 49, ex pub-school, graduate, prof, N/S, shy, sincere, non-scene. Likes arts, home, countryside. WLTM younger London similar. Photo. Box No 2653

GAY man seeking long term relationships - ring Significant Others - the intro bureau for Gay Men. Tel: 0171 494 0009

GENTLEMAN, 32, sensitive, kind GSOH, enjoys classical music, good food/wine, conversation, pubs, politics & current affairs. Seeks similarly nice young gentleman for friendship, potential relationship. London based. Photo please to Box No 2378

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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THE TIMES

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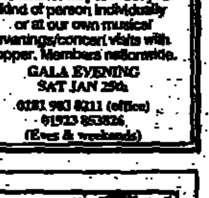

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The move by the editor of *Country Life* to establish the birthday suit as the height of rural fashion is surely doomed

Where will all this undress end?

The only ray of sunshine in what is proving to be a bleak, drab winter out here on the eastern bulge of Britain has been the centenary edition of *Country Life* magazine. For a chap who spends much of his working day alone, with the only shapely things visible through the window being the round rumps of his carthorses or the vast bulk of his pig, the decision by the editor to allow the "girls in pearls" to be photographed from angles hitherto unthinkable has to be roundly applauded.

Where once the photographer was never allowed to focus on anything lower than a lady-like neckline, we are now treated to naked images which descend far enough down the body to make visible that place which is normally only ever exposed by bending labourers. In another image, a chunk of thigh draped in pearls is laid before us like an adorned loin of lamb on a butcher's slab.

Where will all this undress *end*? Will the advertisers follow *Country Life*'s editorial example and, instead of showing views of country houses for sale, offer us a revealing snapshot of the cupboard under the stairs? I am sorry if this appreciation does not comply with political correctness, but we lads in the country do not have the daily dose of such stuff which those who travel to work by London Underground can expect. We have none of those titillating rides past an escalatorful of Demi Moore. So allow us, please, this one indulgence, once a century.

Of course, this move by *Country Life* to establish the birthday suit as the height of rural fashion is doomed. Barbara Cartland has said, "It is very sad how everything has become sordid these days", and women's groups have described it as a huge step backwards. And now I must join in the condemnation. Not on the grounds of scantiness or immodesty, but because the sight of naked flesh at this time of the year, in the country, is a betrayal of everything the country life is truly about. Purely in the interests of research, I have taken my magnifying glass to these pictures, and I can tell you with some certainty that nowhere on the bodies of these girls is to be seen one single goose pimple; not so much as a hair standing on end; no sign of softness of focus caused by the chattering of the girl's teeth sending shivers down the body. No, these are not "country" pictures at all; this is not "country" life, it is "shut up in a warm and cosy studio in the West End" life. And I am jealous, because there have been days this winter when I would have swapped even my pig for a few hours in the warmth. Life has been nothing but those few stolen moments between chopping wood, filling log baskets, lighting fires. Of course, I could switch on the central heating and use some of the vast oil reserves in the tank which, if suddenly allowed on to the open market, would upset trading on the Amsterdam spot market, but I have always believed you can only extract the best from country life by doing things the hard way, no pain no gain, and so I hone my axe and shun the override button on the heating timeswitch.

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

In nearly 15 years of chopping winter firewood, I have learnt a lot about timber and even more about the people who sell it. Dealers in firewood are quick to spot a sucker, and an early purchase of mine was from the farmer's son who promised me fine logs. They looked good, were nicely sawn, and arrived in what looked like a generous heap.

A more practised eye than mine would have realised that timber on which the leaves are still green and growing is unlikely to perform well in the fireplace. On strolling down the lane, I came across the stumps, oozing sap, from which these logs had been freshly cut. Had I been quick, I could have stuck my logs together, married them to the stump and that tree would still be flourishing. So now I cut and dry my own. At least one tree a year gets blown over, so I do not have to wrestle with my conscience about felling healthy stock. And, of course, windfalls are replaced with saplings. You can't do that with heating oil.

But chopping your own wood takes its toll on joints and limbs. Hands grow horny where the chill handle of the axe has been tightly gripped, fingers become blistered where the sledgehammer has slipped while trying to drive a wedge into a knotty chunk of oak, legs are bruised where hunks of timber have fallen from the saw horse.

Country life, at this time of year, is about pain. That there is no hint of suffering in the pictures of these undressed girls suggests that the editor has betrayed his true, country readers.

So, I challenge him to take the girl who appears to be wearing nothing but an item of pearled jewellery about her thighs, remove even that bit of modest cladding, and if beneath it we can see a bruise I shall be satisfied that these are true country gals, and that this fine magazine is in safe hands.

Press a sweet song on the old apple tree

The ancient wassails draw attention to the decline of fruit orchards in Britain. Brian Pedley reports

TIM CUTT

Summoning up ancient forces, Leanne Gammin, left, reaches into the branches while Joanna Read, right, pours cider over the apple tree's roots

For just one night a year, the creekside village of Stoke Gabriel kicks up one unholy racket. The Devon sky, unusually heavy with the threat of snow, is suddenly rent by shotguns firing blanks and the clanging of pots and pans. The local wading birds are startled into an indignant chorus. The cider flows and everyone sings and cheers, including the children. As with any wassail worthy of the name, the effect is magical.

Each year, around Twelfth Night, Stoke Gabriel people summon up ancient forces to ensure an abundant crop of apples in the orchard that has been theirs for centuries. This year's celebration took place last Saturday.

"The wassail goes back to when people were never quite sure that spring would follow winter," says Trudy Turrell, countryside interpretation officer with South Hams council. "As well as waking the trees from their winter slumber, the noise is meant to drive out evil spirits — the ones that stop the boughs from fruiting."

Once, the winter wassail was widespread throughout the fruit-growing areas of southern and western England. Then, every farm pressed its own cider. The heady autumnal draught often formed part of farm workers' wages. In Victorian times, a labourer consumed on average 130 gallons of cider in the course of a year.

In 1970, there remained 154,000 acres of orchards in the UK. But pressure for new houses and roads helped accelerate the decline. Orchards in villages and on the edge of towns became prime targets for development. Newer sites were grubbed up as part of European Union attempts to reduce surpluses. By 1994, the acreage had fallen by more than half. Once there were 6,000 recorded varieties of apple, many unique to a single parish or farm. Now, only nine dominate in Britain. Ancient cider barns were bulldozed away, along with unimproved pasture that was rich in flowers, insects, birds and mammals. Consigned to distant memory was a vast litany of apple lore.

The fruit, held to have magical qualities, was used in fortune telling and healing. Decorated apples were taken around houses as a sign of friendship and good health. The wassail varied only in the fine detail. In Sussex, they called it "worsling"; in Cornwall it was the "warzale". Now it survives in only a handful of villages in Devon and Somerset. When we grubbed up our orchards, we lost much more than mere trees.

"Every farm and country house had its own orchard of mixed fruit trees for kitchen use," says Sue Clifford, founder and director of Common Ground, the London-based environmental charity. "But we let it all fall through our fingers."

Six years ago, the organisation launched a nationwide campaign to encourage the restoration of old orchards and to create new ones. A revived apple tradition was seen as vital. "We thought if we could reinvent any of it, we could reinvent the orchard as well. We have been astonished at the way people have responded," Ms Clifford says.

Common Ground has since seen more than 100 community orchards established throughout the country, including the one that has been adopted in Stoke Gabriel. There, the wassail was reintroduced four years ago. Ms Turrell effectively grafted it on to the life of the village like the stem of some venerable English pippin. "People have been coming in droves ever since," she says.

The balmy South Hams was famed for its cider. Exported to London, it fetched five shillings a barrel more than other pressings from Devon.

Native apple varieties such as Slap Me Girl, Tang Harvey, Brown's of Staverton, Pig's Nose and Devonshire Quarrenden survive ... but only just.

Stoke Gabriel's own little acre boasts 35 carefully maintained fruit-bearing trees, some 20 varieties in all. The village vicar has been known to sit and compose his sermon beneath the blossom, while bees gorge themselves on the new pollen. Small children go there to count the weevils and bugs and to learn the apple-growing ways of their forebears. Local scouts harvest the apples and sell them to a nearby commercial cider-maker. Bridal groups pose there. After funerals, it is the perfect quiet place. "It is a true community orchard," says Ms Turrell.

"Every year we teach children the wassail song and the school chooses a wassail queen. This year, we have two because one of the little girls wanted to be with her friend. But first, we also teach the children the importance of caring for all orchards."

Last Saturday, Joanna Read and Leanne Gammin, both aged nine, were borne shoulder-high into the lichen-covered trees. Using long-handled forks, they thrust slices of cider-soaked toast among the branches.

Around the base of the trees, the girls took turns pouring jugfuls of cider to give fresh life to its roots. The wassail song was then again bellowed to the skies: "For to bloom well and to bear well, so merry let us be."

The guns blazed. The "old apple tree" had been toasted, woken and serenaded as though it were a real person. It is, in a way. "You lose one tree and you risk losing an entire variety of apple," says Ms Turrell. On Stoke Gabriel's wassail night, Joanna and Leanne reclaimed and reaffirmed something for others of their generation.

- *Common Ground, Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA (0171-379 3109).*

Clear away the cobwebs from last year's nest

FEATHER REPORT

AFTER Christmas, one thing changes whatever the weather: the days *start* to get longer. That is important to birds now. The *lengthening* hours of daylight trigger changes *inside* them, and towards the end of January many start to prepare for spring. The males look for territories with suitable nesting-places, and when they have found one they begin to defend it against other males.

Above all, they start to sing. Their song proclaims to other males, "This is my property for the coming season", and invites females, "Would you like to come and join me?".

In Holland in the last century, male chaffinches were sometimes kept in darkness throughout the summer, and then given a little more light each day. Their bodies reacted as they would to lengthening daylight — and they began to sing in October. By then, large flocks of migrating chaffinches were coming into Holland from northern Europe and the singing males were used to attract the females and trap them for use as food. It was a practical experiment that clearly showed the impact of increasing light on the males.

Near London I expect to hear my first chaffinch singing some time next week. Of course, the weather does also influence birds, and if it is cold and grey I may have to wait another week or so. But male chaffinches are getting busy. The older ones will try to occupy the territory they had last year, while birds raised last summer will try to squeeze themselves in somewhere.

They are all starting to examine apple trees for suitable forks for a nest, and to fly conspicuously round what they hope will be their boundaries. They call with a loud "chink, chink" and finally *start singing. After that, their* song — a string of rattling *notes that grows faster and* louder and ends in a cheerful flourish — will ring out from the end of a branch until midsummer.

Blackbirds are engaged in much the same thing. The older birds often join up with the mate they had the previous year. Both male and female will have stayed around the territory *during the winter*, if it provided enough food, though they will probably have roosted in separate *bushes. Now the male starts* roosting next to his old partner *and they start defending the* territory together again.

The blackbirds that will start singing in early February will mostly be young ones trying to establish themselves. The shiny black young males have already started courting on the lawn — approaching a brown female with their head feathers lifted, their rump feathers raised in a hump, their tail spread and a *wild look in their eye*.

Blue tits are going in and out of *holes* in trees, *often* throwing out old debris. In *this species the male may try* to win a female by flying with a strange butterfly-like motion up to a nest-hole that he hopes *will tempt her*.

The male blue tits are *already* singing early in the morning, but their brief song, *like* a pack of cards being flicked, is not particularly noticeable. The great tits are much more in evidence with their loud "teacher, teacher" song and its tri-syllabic variants.

The tits are in a halfway house at present. Though they sing in their territories in the morning, they go back and join up in foraging flocks later *in the day. They are late* nesters, and spring is still a long way off for them.

DERWENT MAY

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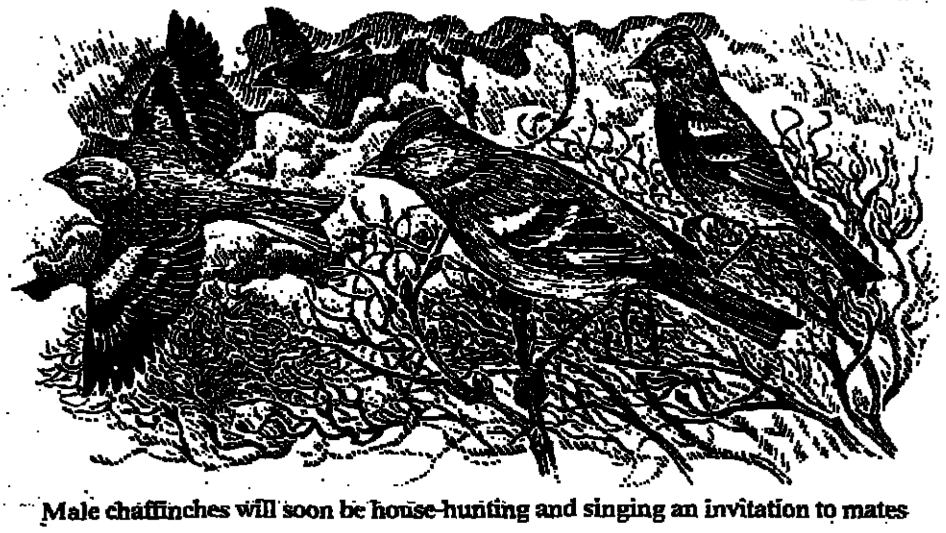
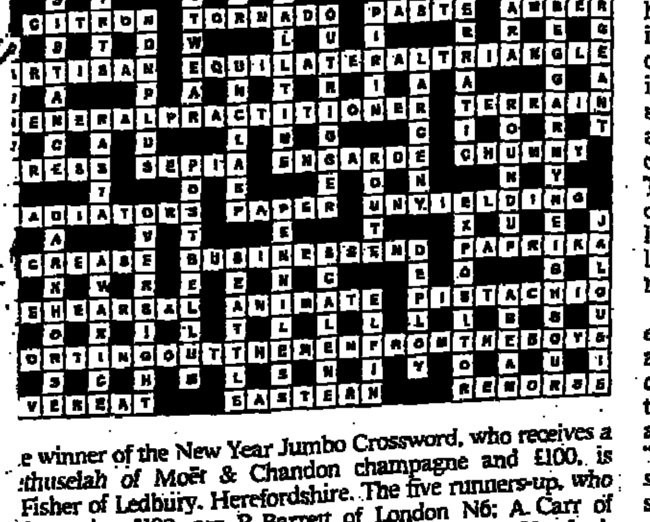
PETER BROWN



Male chaffinches will soon be house-hunting and singing an invitation to mates



e winner of the New Year Jumbo Crossword, who receives a thuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne and £100, is Fisher of Ledbury, Herefordshire. The five runners-up, who h receive £100, are P. Barrett of London N6; A. Carr of athfield, East Sussex; N. Mepham of Harpenden, Hertfordre: E. Procter of Eastcote, Middlesex; P. Raikes of Oxford.

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CHANGING TIMES

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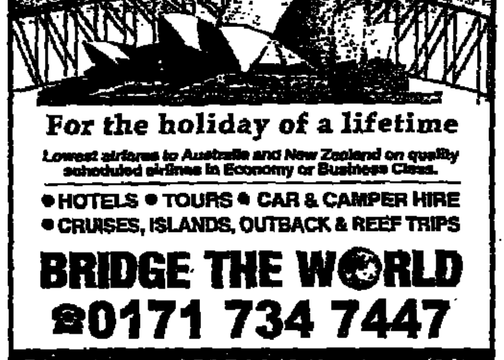

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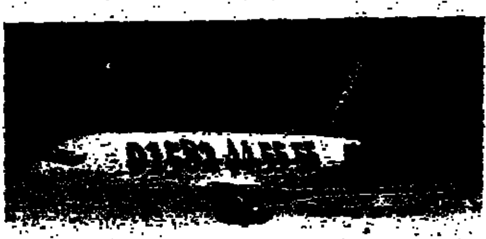

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THE TIMES
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Secrets of a long distance walker
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TONY STONE

The Genoese citadel on the cliff looms above the harbour in Bonifacio with its row of welcoming restaurants — but a short drive inland you find the home of vengeance and vendetta with a brooding air of thinly suppressed menace

Stolen moments in bandit country

Starting our spotlight on France, **Sally Baker** keeps her guard up on the beautiful island of Corsica

On hearing that I was off to Corsica, a friend urged me first to read the definitive book by Dorothy Carrington, whose title escaped her.

She meant Ms Carrington's *Granite Island*, but I mistakenly bought *The Dream-Hunters of Corsica*, and so arrived on the island reeling from the book's extraordinary tales of the *mazzeri*, the village women who traditionally had mystic powers to foretell or invoke death through dreams of hunting down their victims in the maquis, the island's heady, herb-laden vegetation.

This was pretty spooky stuff, and I am not easily spooked. Yet I found Corsica to be a truly strange island, with a brooding air of thinly suppressed violence and menace. This is the home of vengeance and vendetta, of banditry and resistance, whose favourite tourist souvenirs on proud display in every shop are a vast range of fierce-looking combat knives, from cute little flick-knives to 18-inch serrated jobs, many of them with *Vendetta* lovingly inscribed along the blade. (A sinister extension of this craft seen in one shop was a range of tawdry goods bearing a hooded figure holding an AK47 above the legend *Liberté pour les patriotes*. Shame on anyone who buys one.)

The high inland town of Sartène is proud to be the home of the island's last official bandit, who emerged from hiding in the maquis in 1955 to do his penance. Strolling one lunchtime through its dark, silent streets overshadowed by tall, secretive, shuttered granite houses, every time I turned my head it was to glimpse a furtive shadow slipping into an alley entrance, or a door being closed by an unseen hand.

Several of the houses had massive wooden doors with the island's bizarre symbol, the *Tête de Maure* (moor's head), carved into them. I was not inclined to linger.

It was a relief to find that Ajaccio, the island's capital on the west coast, is a pleasant, sunny, bustling port of shady squares and harbour-front cafés. The Saturday market is an intoxicating mix of herby, spicy smells, charcuterie and cheese stalls, fruit and veg, local honeys, liqueurs made from myrtle and aperitifs made from red wine and herbs (try Cap Corse, one of the best).

Corsican music, both old and new, is enormously popular and beautiful: it is played in bars and cafés and tapes sold on market stalls everywhere.

On the wall of the railway station in Ajaccio is a helpful notice in English extolling the delights of the train trip inland to Corte. It reads: "It is a must. The train winds around the mountain, crosses audacious bridges, grapples on the rock far from the road and the villages at the foot of the snow covered Monte d'Oro, and goes through the magnificent forest of Vizzavona planted with hariccio pines and beeches."

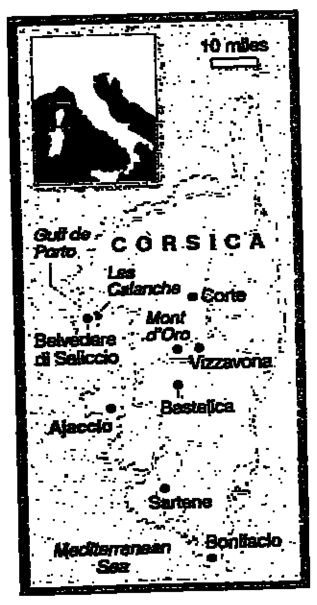
Who could resist? So for two hours and 35 minutes we did indeed wind around the mountain, at walking speed, the pines brushing the windows on either side until the ground fell dizzily away to allow us to wobble precariously across a succession of spidery bridges, each more audacious than the last.

Strategically sited high in the mountains at the island's geographical centre, Corte was the capital of the mid 18th-century independent nation created by Pasquale Paoli. From here the great visionary ran his enlightened democratic state, finding time to found a university in 1764, until the French overran his forces in 1769, and moved their capital to Ajaccio.

Paoli's elegant old government building has a new life as the Centre for Corsican Studies, housing while we were there an extraordinarily chic avant-garde art installation which, while its deeper meaning was wasted on me, I instinctively felt would not have looked out of place at the Tate.

What was not wasted on me was lunch, sitting outside a flower-decked restaurant in a cobbled square, where the local delicacies on offer included blackbird terrine, wild boar, herb tartlets, trout stuffed with *brocciu* (the local goat's cheese), and for dessert *fiadone* — a sweet tart of lemon and *brocciu*.

The boar season opened just after we arrived, and the hills around our villa were alive with the sound of gunfire. The local paper had on its front page a picture of five smug huntsmen with a dozen or so mangy looking boar carcasses at their feet. I was about to deplore this barbaric practice until told that, last season, half a dozen of the beasts had to be chased away from our swimming pool.



But I cannot tell you what boar tastes like; we all had steak and chips. Delicious. And while we ate and pondered the matter of not missing the last train back, we were serenaded by a guitar and a superb voice, singing in Corsican, which is no mere dialect but a language in its own right that is closer to Italian than French.

When planning excursions, by all means add up the distances shown on the Michelin — then double them before converting into time allowed. Then add a bit more anyway for the livestock hazard: cows, goats, and the ever-present wild pigs. A delightful and not too demanding drive from the Ajaccio area is inland to Bastelica, 33km (about 21 miles) on the map, but see above. This gives plenty of hairpin practice, with the reward of Corsican cooking for lunch on the terrace of the pretty Hotel du Castagnettu.

Having got our mountain legs, or wheels, we struck north as far as the Gulf of Porto to see the bizarre red rock formations of Les Calanche.

This unique landscape is absolutely unmissable; and for surely one of the most beautiful views in Europe, in the village of Piana just south of the bay, turn west on a rough lane to the Saliccio Belvedere, and wind your way up the cliffs for a few kilometres until you come to the communications masts and the cross which mark the summit. Grab your camera, get out of the car, and hold on to your hat — it blows up there.

At the southern tip of Corsica, with Sardinia clearly visible across the water, lies another astonishing sight — the town of Bonifacio. The landscape as you drive south flattens out and becomes dry, rugged and wild. Even the maquis cannot get a root-hold on this rock.

Bonifacio's old buildings rise above the desert like a mirage, perched on a spur of blindingly white cliffs which have been so severely eroded beneath the town that the houses on the edges are effectively balancing on thin air. The narrow streets and tall houses of the old high town lead you out to a sailors' cemetery and fortress on the spur's very tip.

Descend back through the town and steeply down to the harbour to take your pick of the long row of restaurants along the water's edge, from which vantage point you can watch the sleek yachts disgorge their cargoes of equally sleek people.

● *The author was a guest of Voyages Ilena.*

CORSICA FACT FILE

■ Voyages Ilena, 1 Old Garden House, The Lanterns, Bridge Lane, London SW11 3AD (0171-924 4440, fax 0171-924 4441), offers a range of villas and hotels in Corsica. Prices for two weeks in a villa with pool, including flights, car hire and insurance, start from £607 per person.

■ Corsican Places (01424 774366) also offers holidays on the island.

■ Watersports are available almost everywhere: windsurfing, sailing, scuba diving, parascending.

■ Restaurants range from pizzerias and crêperies to temples to high gastronomy. For self-caterers, the supermarkets have fine baguettes, cheeses, pâtés, salad and fruit. At Bonifacio, try Pizza Grille des Amis, with main courses at about Ff35-40 (about £4); in Ajaccio try Restaurant Le Scampi, with main courses at Ff75.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *The Journal of a Tour to Corsica*, by James Boswell (In Print, £9.95, ISBN 1 870948 82 3). *Granite Island*, by Dorothy Carrington (Penguin, £8.99, ISBN 0 14 009524 1). *Corsica*, by Theo Taylor (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 85828 089 3).

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France: Savouring the birthplace of *Cakes and Ale*, **Peter Stothard** finds even the zoo animals dine in style …

Reverie on Maugham's Cap Ferrat

PICTURES

Somerset Maugham at his retreat, Villa Mauresque

Villa owners on Cap Ferrat have always had to keep up with such notorious big spenders as Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, whose pink palace is full of Fragonard and Sèvres

You can tell a lot about a place by looking at its zoo. On Cap Ferrat the crocodiles shine like living handbags; the tigers parade their thick Siberian coats on the warmest autumn day; the Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs (not stylish creatures even by standards less exacting than those of the Côte d'Azur) display their dull, black skins against a designer-grey background of cinders.

On Cap Ferrat, the sometime playground of Belgian kings, French mistresses and boyfriends of Somerset Maugham, the leopards sashay like starlets, and even the warthogs are fed on grissini. One moment you can be nipping at a breadstick in a hotel bar, staring across to Nice or Monte Carlo, and the next feeding the same delicate foodstuff, neatly packaged in Cellophane at five francs a portion, past the backward-pointing tusks of African wild pigs.

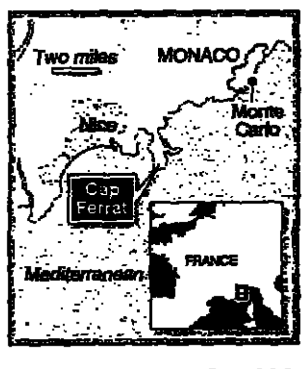
This is not a place whose authorities worry too much where the next dollar is coming from. Dollars have been flowing here since its discovery by fashionable society in the Belle Epoque at the beginning of the century — and they are still flowing into fine hotels, fabled restaurants, formidably priced properties and even into this friendliest of zoos. Just watch a fennec fox tuck into 5lb of fresh steak; see the pleasure in his huge eyes and ears and wonder how many even of the French human population are eating so well.

Somerset Maugham's guests in the 1930s had little to worry about on that score. The worst that could happen was that their host would serve them his notoriously tasteless avocado ice-cream. His magnificent house, the Villa Mauresque, with exotic fruit trees and terraces of roses, stands at the furthest point of the Cap as a reminder of the days when a small section of literary England, escaping from cold, rain and homosexuality laws, gathered for good food and lavish entertainment on their Riviera.

The villa no longer contains its unique window painted by Gauguin or its bathmats by Matisse. But its Moorish talisman against the evil eye, the symbol repeated on the collected edition of its owner's vast and lucrative *oeuvre*, still stares at unwelcome visitors from the entrance.

Maugham liked to write about the people and places around his French retreat. Two of the best examples are *The Facts of Life*, a short story set against the casino of Monte Carlo, and *The Three Fat Women of Antibes*, a bravura portrayal of bitchery, bridge and slimming. But the author also came to Cap Ferrat, like many other tourists since, to relax and think about the life he had left behind. It was here that he wrote *Cakes and Ale*, creating his finest heroine around the character of the first Mrs Thomas Hardy, and cocking a faraway snook at the literary London of the 1920s whose idiocies both amused him and had made him rich.

Money meant a great deal to Maugham. Villa owners on Cap Ferrat have always had to keep up with such notorious big spenders as Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, whose pink palace, full of Fragonard and Sèvres, remains there for tourists like a small Wallace Collection in the sun. Maugham had to fund his extravagances from his own pockets; at his own more modest palace he used to harass his publishers with as much vigour as that for which his modern successors are so often mocked.



In *Cakes and Ale* there is a special word of admiration for the literary lioniser Mrs Sidney Colvin, who helps a favourite poet out of obscurity. "She dealt with the publishers and made contracts for him that would have staggered even a Cabinet minister: she even went so far as to separate him from his wife, with whom he had lived happily for ten years, since she felt that a poet, to be true to himself and his art, must not be encumbered with domestic ties." Maugham's marriage, to the daughter of the original Dr Barnardo, was little part of his life on the Riviera.

The great old man of letters is more prominently remembered now not at his home (which has given its name to the local bus stop) but a few hundred yards away towards the sea at the piano-bar of the Grand-Hotel du Cap Ferrat. Even in an off-season weekend in October, when the sun cannot be guaranteed to reflect on to the Cap from the white cliffsides, this hotel is one of those rare places which works like the smoothest engine.

With a glass funicular stretching down its gardens to an overflowing salt-water pool, its precise staff and immaculate pale cream and avocado decoration, it is a more than fitting memorial.

One tiny repeated theme in Maugham's novels and stories is the ever-increasing demands placed by guests on hotels. Today's Grand Hotel would have no difficulty with the most demanding visitor from the past.

The same cannot be said for its similarly priced inland companion, the Château de la Chèvre d'Or, in the popular cliffside village of Eze. Out of season here meant out of service, and a long wait even to restore heat to a chilly room.

Although the views of where we had been on Cap Ferrat were spectacular, we were left envying the thick coats of the grissini-eating tigers.

CAP FERRAT FACT FILE

- Rooms at the Grand-Hotel du Cap Ferrat (00 334 93 76 50 50) start from Fr750 (about £84) a night; the Suite Royale costs from Fr4,300 a night. A dinner *menu poisson* would cost about Fr420 (drinks not included).
- The Château de la Chèvre d'Or (00 334 92 10 66 66), in the village of Eze, charges Fr1,000 a night for a single room in low season; Fr2,400 a night for a junior suite (prices of main suites on application).
- French Expressions, 13 McCrone Mews, Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BG (0171-431 1312, fax 441 4221) can arrange tailor-made holidays throughout France, including three-night breaks at the Grand-Hotel from £459 per person, and at the Chèvre d'Or from £516, with bed and breakfast, scheduled flights to Nice and self-drive car hire. The Chèvre d'Or is also featured by Unicorn Holidays — the Best of France (01582 834400, fax 831133).
- *Le Zoo de Cap Ferrat* (00 334 93 76 04 98). *Villa et Jardins* Ephrussi de Rothschild (00 334 93 01 33 09): open daily 2-6pm, weekends and holidays 10am-6pm.
- The French Tourist Board, 0891 244123 (calls are charged at 39p a minute cheap rate, 49p at all other times); Nice Tourist Office, 00 334 93 87 07 07.
- Reading: *Tender is the Night*, by F Scott Fitzgerald (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 18075 3). *Collected Short Stories Vol I*, by W Somerset Maugham (Mandarin, £7.99, ISBN 0 749 30345 X). *France: Côte d'Azur*, by Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls (Cadogan, £12.99, ISBN 1 860 11061 4).

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Tue	25	Feb	Larnaca, Cyprus	Nicosia
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Thu	27	Feb	Port Said, Egypt	Cairo & Pyramids
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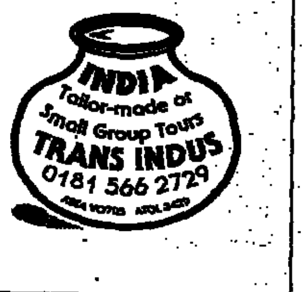
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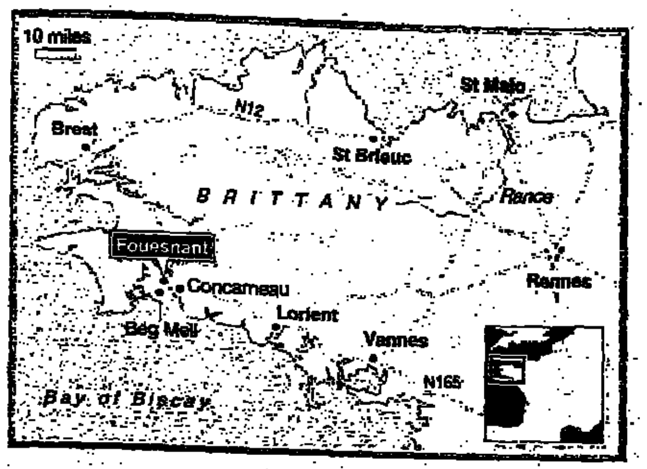
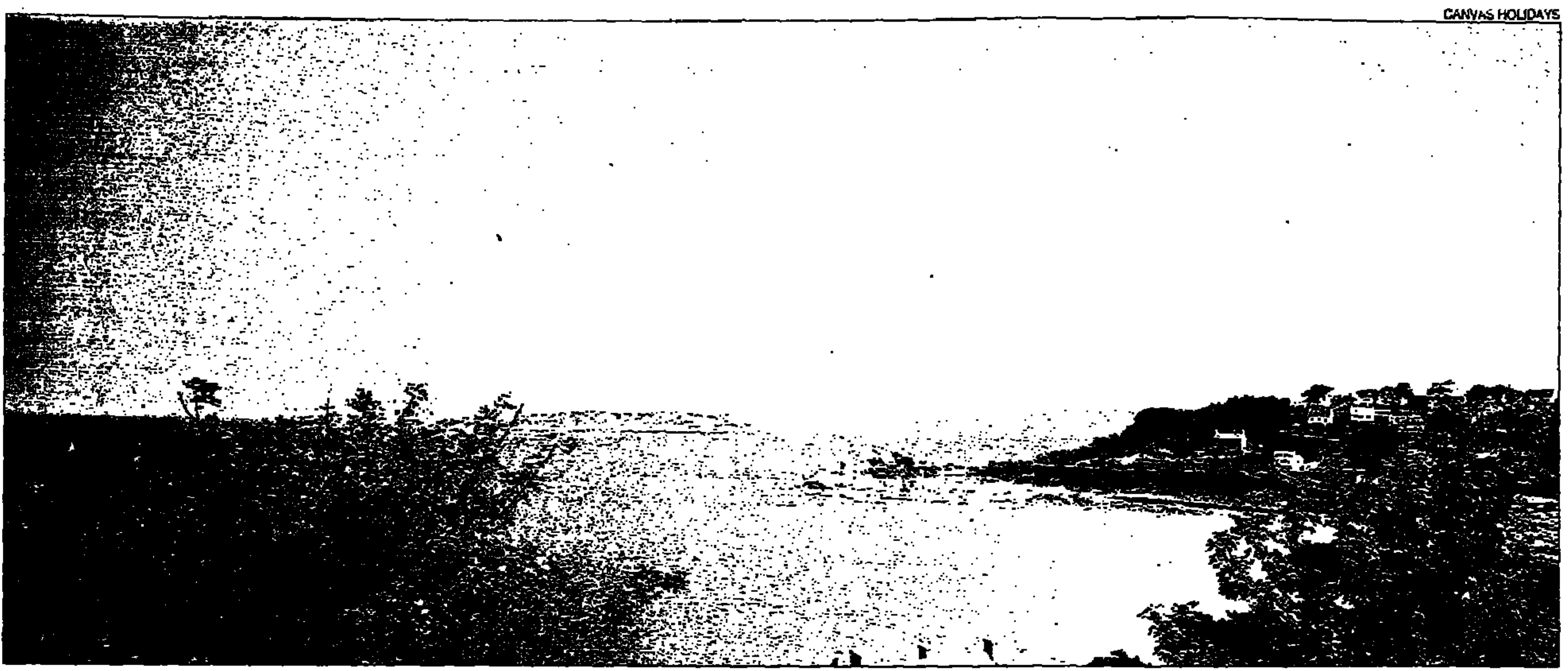
… while a desire to relive his childhood led **James MacManus** to the coast of Brittany for an outdoor holiday



Camping with no strings


CANVAS HOLIDAYS

The beaches of Brittany in northwest France are uncrowded and clean with abundant rock pools hiding lush sea life. Small harbour towns provide excellent restaurants

Memories of childhood holidays draw many parents back to old haunts with their own children.

In pursuit of holidays past we have revisited the shingle beaches of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness in Suffolk, the now greying sands of West Wittering in Sussex and the surfy strand at Trebarwith on the north Cornish coast.

All this bucket-and-spading delighted our children and refurnished my memories of crabbing in Cornish rockpools and competing in the August regatta on Thorpeness mere.

But the charm of such nostalgia holidays, and the climate that goes with them, has always eluded my South African-born wife.

So last year we took the decision to go camping somewhere warm on the risky basis that she had once had a jolly good time sleeping in a tent and cooking over an open fire in the Transvaal.

After brisk negotiation, Transvaal went out of the window, followed by the tents. We settled instead for a mobile home on a camp-site in Brittany.

With much foreboding on my part and some comment about my pathetic lack of adventure on hers we drove off the ferry at St Malo on a July morning to find ourselves three hours later at Fouesnant Atlantique, a camp-site on the south Brittany coast just a few miles from the medieval walled city of Concarneau.

We had chosen the site from scores listed by Canvas Holidays with three objectives. With three children squashed in the back of an old Saab we did not want a long drive from the ferry. We also wanted a camp that was walking distance from a good beach and which offered supervised activities for children; and we wanted to be within easy reach of some good restaurants.

Score two out of three for Fouesnant. We never did get to test the system whereby a child courier, in our case a bronzed Scottish lass, swooped down on children aged four to 13 and took them off for organised activities for up to four hours at a time, six days a week.

Our two youngest came down with chickenpox on day one so we were forced to turn our backs on what looked like a guilt-free method of getting rid of the little darlings for hours at a time.

Our spotty brood meant that we were unable to mingle with our largely Dutch, German and Scottish fellow campers around the pool, so instead we set forth from our mobile home at ten every morning and headed for the beaches.

Every other parent, we noted, packed their children off with the couriers and then sat down to an extended al fresco breakfast.

Ten minutes walk through a pine wood led to miles of clean sand that stretched either way to little fishing harbours at Beg Meil and Mousterlin. The water was cold, but the sun was hot and every now and then young men on balloon wheeled bicycles pedalled past selling ice-cream.

Ten minutes further afield in a car took us to serious beach life with seaweed smothered rock-pools hiding giant crabs, and a decent two-star family run hotel, La Pointe de Mousterlin, to fall into for lunch. Children's menus were about £6 per head for fish or chicken and chips almost everywhere we went. Fixed menus started from £12 per head. Compared to the South of France the prices are cheap and the Bretons welcoming.

And so we lazed on the beach every morning and lunched on unseemly quantities of mussels, langoustines and baked clams, followed by endless variations of pancakes that seem to be the mainstay of the Breton diet. The glorified caravan which was home for two weeks welcomed us back after a stab at sightseeing in the afternoon. Although just 28ft by 10ft it took the sting, or the magic if you prefer, out of camping.

With five berths in two bedrooms, a small sitting room/diner and a gas cooker, fridge, mains electricity and lavatories and showers that worked, it provided a comfortable base for the five of us.

The weather allowed us to barbecue out most evenings and there were babysitters whenever we decided, usually disastrously, to try a Michelin recommended restaurant in the area.

The camp was run with Teutonic efficiency which seemed at odds with the wild and windswept character of the Celtic rim of France — but it worked. Fresh bread and milk appeared in the camp shop every morning and the launderette and shower blocks hummed with activity from an early hour.

Everyone obeyed the rules — no ball games within the camp, no noise after 11pm, a speed limit of 10mph in the camp and no cars allowed back through the main gate after 11pm (late returners have to park outside the gates and walk in).

It was slightly like being back at school but, in their rows of tents which paraded down hedge-lined avenues, the campers seemed to relish the discipline.

We in our superior mobile homes, shaded by trees and discreetly positioned for some privacy, secretly yearned for a slice of the real camping life, even if only to sit round a fire at night swapping yarns about taut canvas, tight guy ropes and sharp tent pegs with fellow devotees of the great outdoors.

But there were no campfires to sit around. Everyone piled into the camp bar at night, drank prodigious quantities of the local cider, and staggered back to their tents amid much giggling.

As far as we were concerned they need not have bothered. Long before lights out we were sleeping the sleep of those who know that their children will be up with, or usually well before, the dawn. And for their sake we will probably go camping again because for them a French camp-site beats a British beach every time.

● *James MacManus travelled as a guest of Canvas Holidays.*

FACT FILE

- **Canvas Holidays** (0645 747222) offers starting prices of £573 for a family of two adults and four children staying at one of 74 sites in Europe in a standard mobile for 14 nights including ferry.
- **Other companies** offering camping holidays in Britain and Europe are Eurocamp (0541 555055), Eurosites (01706 830739) and Carisma Holidays (01923 284560).
- **Reading:** *French Entrée — Brittany*, by Patricia Fenn (Quiller, £6.95, ISBN 1 899 16303 4). *Caravanning in France 1997* (Michelin, £8.49; ISBN 2 060 06179 2).

Amanda MacManus and daughter Elizabeth relax by the mobile home in Fouesnant

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 27

LETHIFEROUS
(b) That causes or results in death, deadly. From the Latin *lēt(h)um* death + *-ferous* bringing.

MONITION
(b) Instruction or direction. Warning, admonitory counsel.

LASCARINE
(a) An old East Indian soldier under the British Raj; also one of the native police. An adaptation of the Portuguese *lasquarin*, Urdu *lashkarī* military.

LUBISH
(a) A Lubish mark or shilling was a denomination belonging to a money of account formerly in extensive mercantile use in North Germany. A toponym from *Lubeck*, a town of northern Germany.

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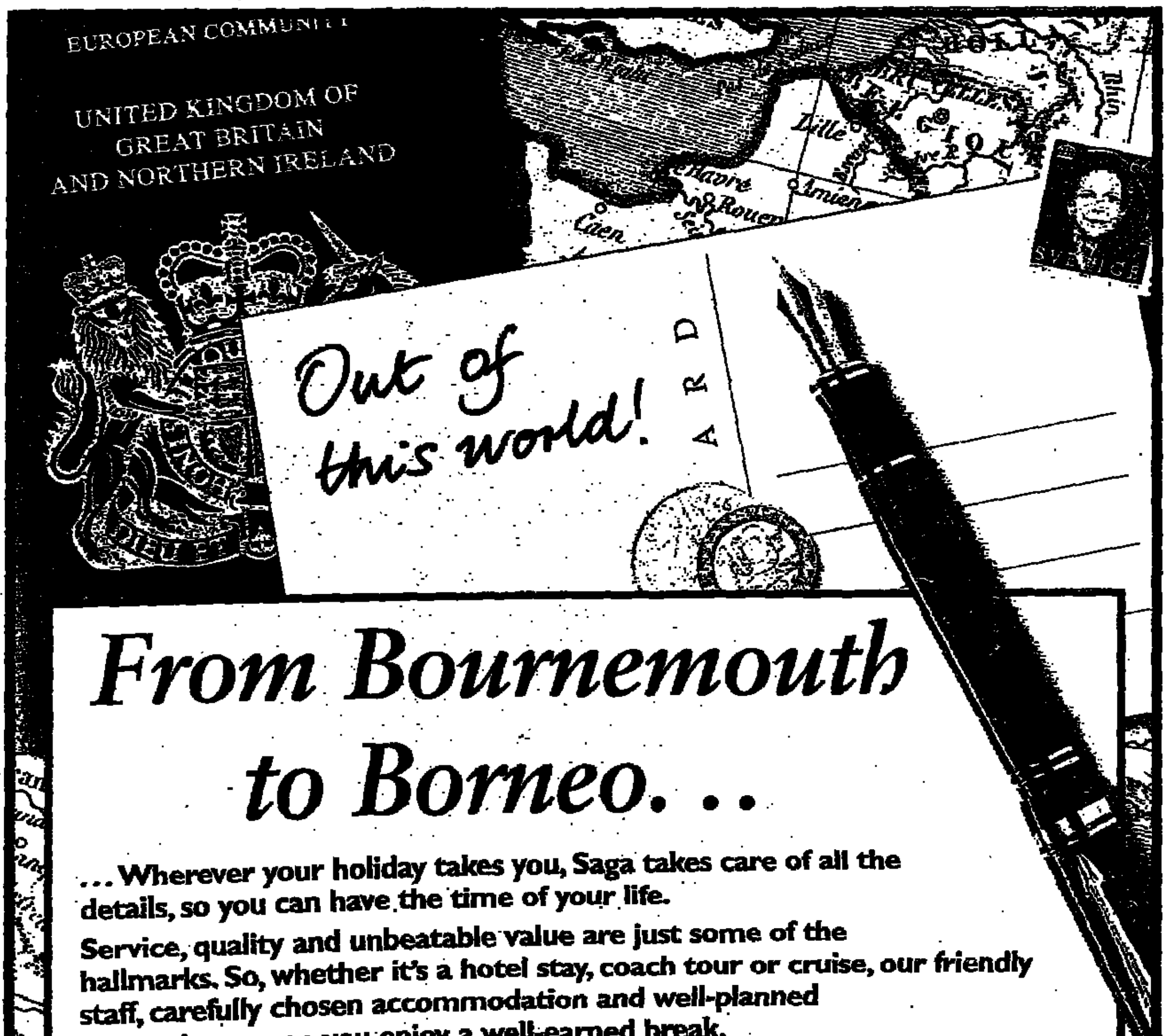
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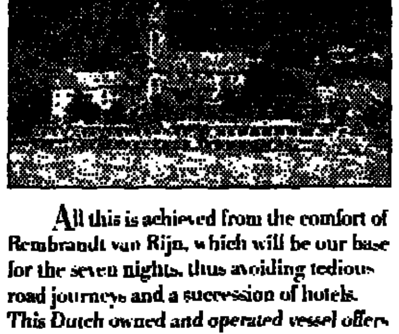
SPRINGTIME IN THE NETHERLANDS

A 7 NIGHT JOURNEY ALONG THE DUTCH WATERWAYS AND THROUGH THE BULBFIELDS ABOARD THE REMBRANDT VAN RIJN

This coming April immerse yourself in the cultural and horticultural splendours of the Netherlands. Join the first class 90 passenger 'Rembrandt van Rijn' in Amsterdam and enjoy seven days aboard which will include two days in Amsterdam and five days cruising the Dutch Waterways.

Our three departures will take place in April affording us the opportunity to enjoy the colourful spectacle of the bulbfields as their blooms carpet the countryside in every imaginable hue.

We will explore some of Amsterdam's cultural delights including the works of the great masters, Rembrandt and Vermeer in the fabulous Rijksmuseum, a diamond cutting workshop, and a canal cruise through the heart of the city. In the picturesque countryside we will visit the charming villages of Edam and Marken, join a walking tour of Hoorn, visit the amazing 70 acre gardens of Keukenhof and the World War II battlefield and Airborne Museum at Arnhem.



All this is achieved from the comfort of Rembrandt van Rijn, which will be our base for the seven nights, thus avoiding tedious road journeys and a succession of hotels. This Dutch owned and operated vessel offers spacious and comfortable outside cabins with large picture windows. The main lounge and bar are well furnished and welcoming and the one-sitting dining room provides delicious Continental cuisine. The sun deck has comfortable lounge chairs and is an ideal place for observation. Our three voyages are for English speaking passengers only.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow)-Amsterdam with KLM. Drive to the Rembrandt van Rijn which is moored in a central location and embark. Afternoon at leisure. Welcome dinner.

DAY 2 Amsterdam Morning visit to the Rijksmuseum and a diamond cutting factory. Afternoon at leisure.

DAY 3 Amsterdam Morning canal cruise by motorlaunch. Afternoon free.

DAY 4 Zuider Zee Sail from Amsterdam in the early hours making our way across the Zuider Zee to Volendam. From here we will visit Edam and Marken famous for their cheese. Narrow canals, wooden bridges, the historic Weigh House and the museum with a floating cellar make for a most enjoyable morning's visit. During lunch sail to Hoorn where we will join an organised walk through this enchanting town. In the late afternoon sail to Kampen, arriving in time for an after dinner stroll along its historic lanes.

DAY 5 Arnhem Morning sailing through the forested countryside to Arnhem. After lunch we will visit the World War II battle site and the Airborne Museum which houses models of the battlefield and provides a commentary. Later explore Arnhem, the market place and 15th century Grote Kerk.

DAY 6 Dordrecht and Rotterdam Sail across Holland past gently rolling countryside which is dotted with windmills. Arrive in Dordrecht after lunch and explore this historic town before sailing on to Rotterdam for an overnight mooring.

DAY 7 Keukenhof Gardens and Delft Leave the vessel after breakfast for a full day visit to the marvellous bulb gardens of Keukenhof at Lisse and continue to Delft for a pottery factory visit and some free time in this lovely town. Drive on to Amsterdam to rejoin the vessel in the late afternoon. Evening free in Amsterdam.

DAY 8 Amsterdam-London (Heathrow) Disembark after breakfast and drive to Schiphol airport for your return flight with KLM.

DEPARTURE DATES

12,19,26 April 1997

PRICES PER PERSON

Main deck aft	2 beds	£1075
Main deck forward	2 beds	£1129
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Promenade deck Single		£1725

Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Price includes: Scheduled air travel London-Amsterdam return, 7 nights aboard the Rembrandt van Rijn on full board, excursions as detailed, entrance fees, port taxes, transfers, UK departure tax.

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هكذا من الأصل

France: Nagged by his horse-loving 12-year-old daughter, **Paul Heiney** rides again – after a gap of 15 years…

Saddle sore but happy on the trails of the Tarn

Rose Heiney writes:
Well I never thought I'd see the day when Dad would climb upon a horse, kick it into a canter, and jump while I stood watching, hands over eyes. Anyway, we both had some incredible rides. I actually found the rides more daunting than my father, not having much of a head for heights. Astonishing really, what you'll do under the instruction of someone who doesn't speak your language.

Of the many mysteries which growing daughters present to their fathers, there is none more perplexing than the relationship between a 12-year-old and ponies. I reassure myself that there are more dangerous liaisons in which a pre-teenage girl could be indulging. But tolerance was not enough. A "riding holiday" was demanded.

I have heard bad reports of these holidays: all bunk beds and baked beans and nothing to read but a tattered *Horse and Hound* or *Bunty*. Anyway, I do not like riding.

But fathers have duties and so daughter Rose and I lugged our helmets, breeches, boots and saddle-sore ointment to the rolling hills of the Tarn, an hour by train from Toulouse.

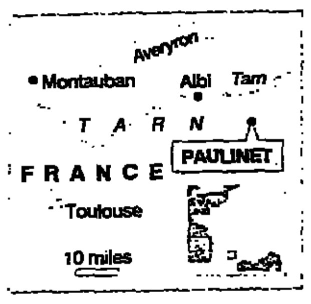
Half close your eyes in the Tarn and you could be in Derbyshire. Ravines and gorges are scoured by fast-flowing rivers: the steep hillsides are thick with pine and broad-leafed trees, and the tops of the hills are flat farmland.

Les Juliannes at Paulinet, our destination, lies 1,200ft above sea level, with a view all the way to the Pyrenees. I was not looking that far. My eyes were on the fit and polished horses, the large stable and indoor school, set well away from the farmhouse, and on the house itself. No bunkhouse here; it is an adorable 17th-century farmhouse with walls 2ft thick to deflect summer heat.

There are only six bedrooms and, I am happy to report, no evidence of any sweaty horseblanket ever having crossed the threshold. It is the French farmhouse of your dreams, and within an hour of arriving it was hard to believe we were not personal and lifelong friends of our hosts, Marc and Claudine.

I spotted vast jugs of red wine on the farmhouse table, and thought I might decline the riding. You do not have to ride here: you can eat, drink and swim in the pool.

Daughter had other ideas. On the first day, I found myself booked in for a morning lesson and a two-hour ride in the afternoon. I presented myself at the stables in a pair of breeches cut for a finer figure than mine and was introduced to my horse: an upstanding chestnut gelding called Pataras. "*Très antique*," said Guy, the instructor, trying to reassure me.



In the huge indoor school, with five others of mixed ability, age and nerve, I surprisingly recaptured my rising trot of 15 years ago (I never got beyond that stage). It felt rather pleasant; made more so by the charming firmness of Guy, whose command of English was as slight as my understanding of equine French. Beware: the French have no word for "canter". They have degrees of gallop. This can be confusing.

After lunch we set off for the two-hour afternoon promenade. You need some head for heights, because the hills are steep and you spend some time sitting back in your saddle with your horse's head so low that you can no longer see it. But give the horses plenty of rein and they find footholds. Then you relax when you meet the lush meadows on the valley floors, let your horse drink at the fast-flowing streams, soak up the fragrance of the forests and the hot animal beneath you.

It hurt on the first day, but by day three I had a rump like the Lone Ranger's. I needed it. Ninety minutes into that first cross-country ride Guy shouted, "OK. Galloooop". Not having the French to say politely, "No thank you, rising trot will be fine," I had no choice. "Get into zer jumping position," he said, demonstrating a pose like a jockey at Becher's Brook.

By now, the word "gallooop" had sunk into the brains of the horses and antique Pataras was gathering speed. There was no ejector seat, no parachute. So I galloped. Backside out of the saddle, standing in the stirrups, reins shortened, head low.

The pace quickened, the forest air whistling past till we emerged at the top of the hill and slowed to a walk. Fantastic! The whole ride punched the air and cried out with joy.

After three hours in the saddle, I staggered back to the farmhouse and discovered to my delight that to get to our room you walk past the kitchen window. Peering through the shutters I could see Marc toying with his mustards, oils, vinaigrettes, and wine. This was better than embrocation.

We fed late and superbly every night on the robust cuisine of the Tarn (goose pâté unbelieveable, stuffed duck's neck beyond description), and swilled red wine like horses at a trough. Claudine, smiling like the Mona Lisa, joined us with the chocolate pudding.

After that, the days got better. To my astonishment as much as Rose's, under the firm direction of Guy I did a little jumping, and *liked* it. There were three "galloooops" every day, each more thrilling than the preceding one.

One lady took a tumble (a rare occurrence here), whereon the youthful Guy swung down from his horse, broke a twig from the hedge for a splint, and ripped his shirt from his taut body to improvise a sling. Then, bare chested, he flung himself into the saddle and galloped at full speed for help. Beat that for romance.

Even now I miss my daily gallop through the forests, pausing to pick blackberries then trotting through the small farmyards where chickens roost in old 2CVs.

I shall go on a horse-riding holiday again. I might even let the daughter come, too.

● *Paul and Rose Heiney were guests of Inntravel.*

FACT FILE

■ **Inntravel, Hovingham, York Y06 4JZ (01653 628862). Les Juliannes opens from March to late October and is suitable for riders of all ages and abilities. Prices start from £445 for seven nights with self-drive (or from £595 by air to Toulouse, train and transfer) and includes half board, ten hours' instruction or five half-day rides.**

■ **VFB France Active (01242 240310) includes horse riding as part of its multiactivity holidays in the French Alps.**

■ **Reading: *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes*, by R.L. Stevenson (OUP, £4.99, ISBN 0 192 82629 8). *Michelin Gorges du Tarn* (in French only) (£8.99, ISBN 2 060 33703 8).**

ROBERT HARDING

The Tarn region in southern France, with its picturesque scenery, is ideal for riding

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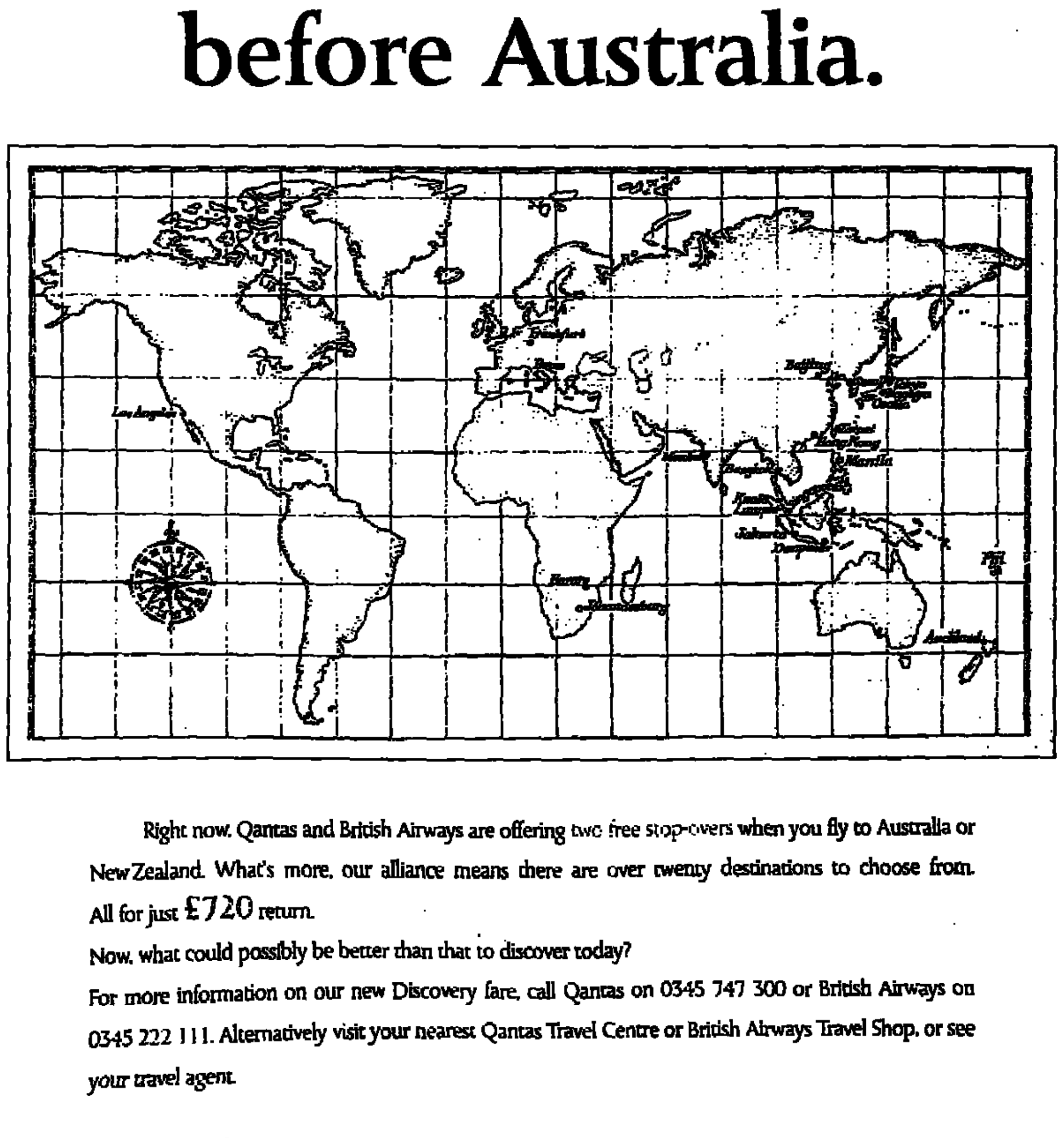

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Russian Waterways of the GOLDEN RING

The opening of the waterways between St Petersburg and Moscow allows us to link a visit to two great cities with a relaxing cruise that travels the Neva River, Lake Ladoga, the Svir River, Lake Onega, the Baltic Canal, White Lake, the Volga River and finally the Moscow and Volga Canal. This intricate system of waterways has a beauty that is hard to describe. Serene, peaceful and timeless with silver birch and pine forests, sandy shores, calm flowing water and spectacular late sunsets, in these realms of the 'White Nights'. Calls will be at such historic towns as Uglich, where the blue cupolas decorated with the golden stars of the riverside church make a stunning landmark.

For many the visit to Kizhi Island in Lake Onega will be the highlight of the waterway journey. Here the magnificent Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 shimmering grey domes in three tiers are more than a match for the fairytale splendour of Moscow's St Basil's. From here we cruise through the fascinating waterway system through Goritsy to the cities of the Golden Ring, stopping at Yaroslavl and Uglich on the mighty Volga. These magical cities of Holy Russia still preserve their medieval kremlins, fortified monasteries and churches, in surroundings remote from the modern world.

For this journey we are operating with the MS Karamzin which was used for the first time last year and received high praise from a large number of passengers. The tour represents extremely good value for money and will therefore appeal to those wishing to see unspoilt parts of Russia from an economical and comfortable base.

The MS Karamzin

This comfortable, well-maintained ship was built in Germany and recently partially renovated. All cabins are outside with large picture window (except those on the Lower Deck that have two portholes), private shower, toilet and temperature control; the ship is fully air-conditioned. The bright, pleasant restaurant has windows on three sides offering views as you dine. Cuisine (Russian and Continental) is adjusted to western taste. There is a main lounge/bar with live music, several more lounges, beauty shop and ample deck space. Laundry service is available and a medical doctor is on board.

Because the ship is now under Western management, you can expect many upgraded amenities (including quality towels, soap, toilet paper, coffee) and better food, service, cruise director and staff.

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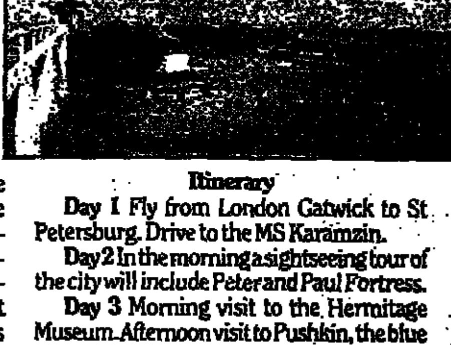
10 nights from £795.00



Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London Gatwick to St Petersburg. Drive to the MS Karamzin.

Day 2 In the morning a sightseeing tour of the city will include Peter and Paul Fortress.

Day 3 Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum. Afternoon visit to Pushkin, the blue and gold rococo palace designed for the Empress Elizabeth. Sail in the evening.

Day 4 Svir Stroy - the day is spent leisurely cruising Lake Ladoga and the Svir River stopping at the village of Svir Stroy.

Day 5 Kizhi Island - sail across Lake Onega to Kizhi and see the typical wooden churches, houses with early barns and windmill. A visit will be made to the Transfiguration Church.

Day 6 Goritsy - sail along the Baltic Canal and across White Lake to the town of Goritsy to visit Kirill Belosersk Monastery.

Day 7 Yaroslavl - one of the seven cities of the 'Golden Ring'. A city sightseeing tour includes some of the churches and fine examples of 16th-century architecture.

Day 8 Uglich - cruise along the Volga to Uglich. Founded in the 12th century, it was here that Ivan the Terrible's youngest son was murdered. Sail in the evening towards Moscow crossing the Moscow/Volga Canal.

Day 9 Sail along the River Moskva reaching Moscow in the late morning. A city tour is arranged for the afternoon.

Day 10 Morning city tour of Moscow to see Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin including a visit to the Armoury Museum.

Day 11 Return flight from Moscow to London Heathrow.

Departure Dates & Prices
1997 - per person on Lower Deck

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June 22	£795.00
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** these departures operate in the reverse direction (Moscow to St Petersburg) and include one extra night on the cruise visiting Kostroma.

* this departure includes one night extra in Moscow (making the total duration 11 nights).

Supplements per person

Single cabin	£380.00
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Price includes: return air travel, full board, excursions and entrance fees, all transportation, services of cruise director. Not included: travel insurance, overseas airport taxes, visa procurement, tips.

All prices are subject to change. All bookings are subject to our Conditions of Booking, a copy of which is available on request.

Please note that on some dates, departures will operate from Heathrow and return to Gatwick. Please enquire at the time of booking.

Longer Duration

A 14-night itinerary is also available from £975 per person on the following dates: May 25, June 8*, July 13, 27', August 31 and September 14*. Please contact us for details.

* these departures operate in the reverse direction (Moscow to St Petersburg).

' this departure is one night fewer in St Petersburg. Deduct £50 from the above price.

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هكذا من الأصل.

… and **Brian Jackman** walks the smugglers' tracks of the Cerdagne, a lost valley deep in the Pyrenees

Turn right at Dead Man's Fountain

J. ALLAN CASH

Today *les contrebandiers* are gone from the rugged Pyrenees and walkers now follow their old, clandestine trails, returning to a hot bath or sauna and a four-course dinner

All the way from Perpignan the peaches hung red and ripe in the roadside orchards. Higher, beyond the medieval walls of Villefranche de Conflent in the foothills of the Pyrenees, the Spanish chestnuts were in flower. Despite a late snowfall at the end of May, summer had come with scorching temperatures.

From Villefranche the road ran on towards Spain, following the narrow-gauge tracks of Le Petit Train Jaune, France's highest railway line, into the heart of the Cerdagne, a lost valley hidden deep in the Catalan Pyrenees.

The Cerdagne is classic frontier country, a mixture of colliding cultures with a curious, dislocated history. Long ago the medieval Kings of Mallorca ruled here. Until the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659 this region still belonged to Catalonia: but then the power of Spain receded, leaving the Cerdagne washed up permanently on the French side of the border. Yet even today Llivia, once the capital of the Cerdagne, remains as a Spanish enclave marooned inside France, where people say "Hola" instead of "Bonjour"; and the villages of the Cerdagne with their curious, truncated names — Hix, Ur, Err and Llo — are still strongly Catalan in character.

I was heading for Valcebollere (population 35), tucked away in a remote valley near the town of Saillagouse, within walking distance of the Spanish frontier. It is the kind of village where you wake in the mornings to the sound of cows being driven through the streets: a huddle of stone houses, all roofed in authentic Pyrenean fashion with fishtail slates, set beside a rushing torrent.

At its centre is the Auberge Les Ecureuils, a welcoming mountain inn whose patron, Etienne Lafitte, first came to Valcebollere at the age of 11 to holiday at his uncle's house. He fell in love with the region — something which is not hard to do — and came back to transform the village inn into a delightful retreat for mountain walkers.

"My uncle was a famous smuggler," he said. "He was always taking cigarettes, nylons and other little luxuries into Spain. During the Second World War he also helped to guide escaped British PoWs across the Pyrenees into Spain. He just asked if they would help carry some extra contraband for him."

Today, *les contrebandiers* are gone and walkers follow their old clandestine trails, returning at the end of an arduous hike to enjoy a hot bath or sauna, followed by a *splendid four-course dinner* cooked by *le patron* himself.

Fortified by a breakfast of fresh apricot juice, hot croissants and coffee, I set off up the steep path into the mountains behind the auberge. The summer meadows were bright with wild flowers: orchids, trefoils, scented pinks, sky-blue campanulas and yellow gentians with leaves like asses' ears. But what most caught the eye were the butterflies, rising and falling among the grass heads.

Some were familiar: orange tips, *painted* ladies, clouded yellows. Others — continental varieties of blues, coppers and fritillaries — I knew only from illustrations in field guides. Black-veined whites, a species not seen in Britain since the 19th century, were common here, flying in the company of another butterfly I had never seen before — the Parnassius apollo — its large, papery-white wings exquisitely marked with black, grey and faded blood-red spots.

Higher up the track, where *the pines and alpen roses* ended, open hillsides of close-cropped grass rose steeply towards the skyline. It was too late in the year to see the pasqueflowers in bloom. Their feathery grey husks were everywhere, nodding in the breeze. But the sun-baked slopes were still covered with pincushion clumps of pinks and mountain saxifrages. With my binoculars I spotted five izards — Pyrenean chamois — grazing on a distant *mountainside.*

The summits of these Catalonian mountains are rounded in outline, like the Scottish Highlands, with patches of tired-looking snow still lying in their green hollows. But everything is on a much grander scale. Puigmal, the highest peak in the Cerdagne, is not far off 3,000 metres. Puigmal, the Evil Mountain, is notorious for its sudden, treacherous mood swings; sunshine one moment, storms the next. Today its dark silhouette stood out sharp and clear against the sky, keeping watch over one of Europe's loneliest frontiers.

At last I reached the long, rolling crest to the west of *Puigmal. A path runs along it,* marked by cairns. I stood on the frontier and saw the mountains of Spain, blue with distance, marching south into the heat haze towards Barcelona. Farther on I came to an old mule track snaking steeply down past a spring known as Dead Man's Fountain, heading for the sunlit valleys far below. Maybe Etienne Lafitte's uncle had once used this route, sneaking through the night with his tobacco and his British fugitives?

I retraced my steps until I was out of the wind and found a sheltered grassy hollow in which to enjoy the magnificent picnic which Mr Lafitte had provided: omelette aux champignons, pâté, air-dried ham, tomatoes, cheese, cherries, half a crusty loaf and a goatskin *bota* of sharp red wine.

Afterwards, lying back in *the grass, watching the cloud* shadows sailing over the mountainsides, I noticed three black specks *in the sky. They* were griffon vultures — giant birds with a 2m wingspan — patrolling the mountains in search of carrion.

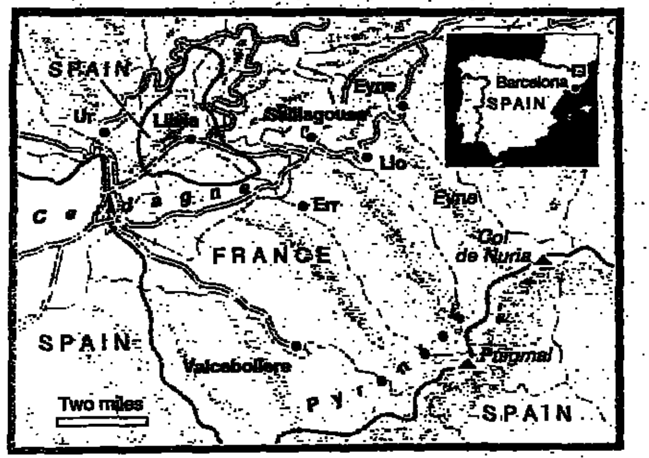
Eagles also frequent this high country, and lower down in the fathomless forests, among the alpen rose glades and old-growth pines, the lynx still lingers like a legend, along with wild boar, pine martens, capercaillie and the *hibou grand duc* or *eagle owl,* with its gruff voice and glaring orange eyes.

Later during my stay, at Mr Lafitte's insistence, I drove to the nearby village of Eyne in order to walk up the Eyne Valley, a nature reserve renowned for its *wild* flowers. The walk began in a summer meadow loud with grasshoppers. *At the edge of the path a* butcher-bird swung on a dog-rose stem. As I followed the tumbling mountain torrent upstream through fragrant pinewoods, the sides of the valley drew closer, with dizzy crags and pinnacles tearing at the clouds.

Here, as in the high meadows above Valcebollere, there were butterflies galore: marbled whites, Scotch argus and Queen of *Spain fritillaries* with quicksilver underwings. But in the Eyne Valley it is the *flowers that take pride of* place: wild mauve geraniums, orchids and globe flowers, *drifts of blue and yellow* gentians, bistort and hay rattle, creamy swags of meadowsweet, with here and there the magnificent martagon or Turk's-cap lily, the pride of the Pyrenees.

It is one of the loveliest summer walks in Europe.

● *Brian Jackman was a guest of Inntravel.*



CERDAGNE FACT FILE

■ Inntravel, Hovingham, York Y06 4JZ (01653 628862) in its Inn-Active *summer* brochure features independent walking holidays in the Cerdagne, including the Eyne Valley and the Auberge les Ecureils in Valcebollere. Walk options range from six to ten days. Luggage is transported between hotels, and accommodation is half-board, with picnics provided on every walking day. *Seven nights, with flights from* Gatwick to Perpignan and private transfer, cost from £498. Or you can use the Auberge les Ecureils in Valcebollere as a base, where self-drive prices for a three-night stay start at £179. Inntravel also offers an accompanied In the Footsteps of the Smugglers walk in August and September (seven nights from £765).

■ Naturetrek (01962 733051) also offers botanical walking trips in the French Pyrenees.

■ Reading: *Song of Roland* (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 44532 3). *Walks and Climbs in the Pyrenees,* by Kev Reynolds (Cicerone, £14.99, ISBN 1 852 84133 8). *Michelin Guides Pyrenées Roussillon* (ISBN 2 060 36804 9) and *Pyrenées Aquitaine* (ISBN 2 060 36704 2). In French, £8.99 each. *Pyrenees,* by Marc Dubin (Rough Guides, £8.99, ISBN 1 858 28093 1).

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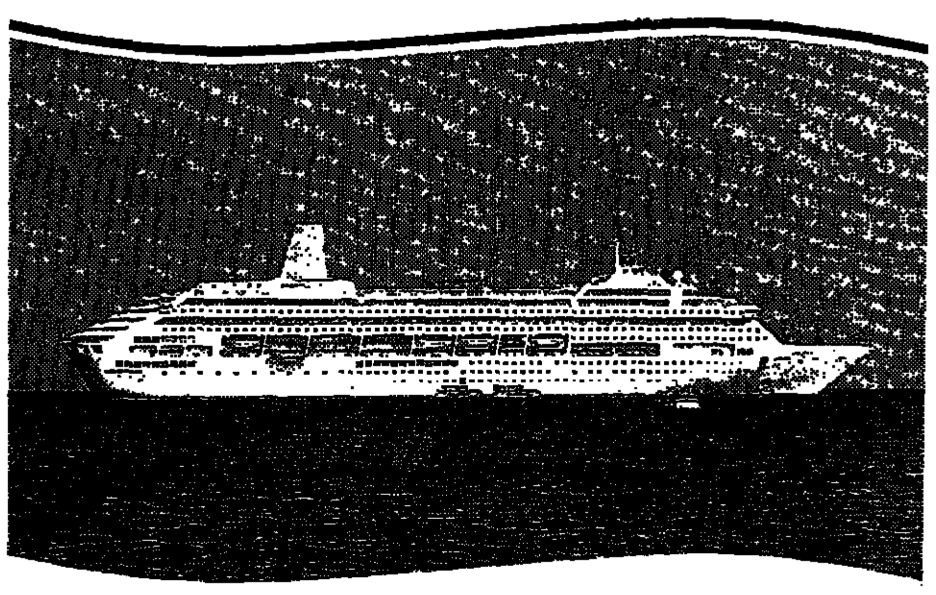
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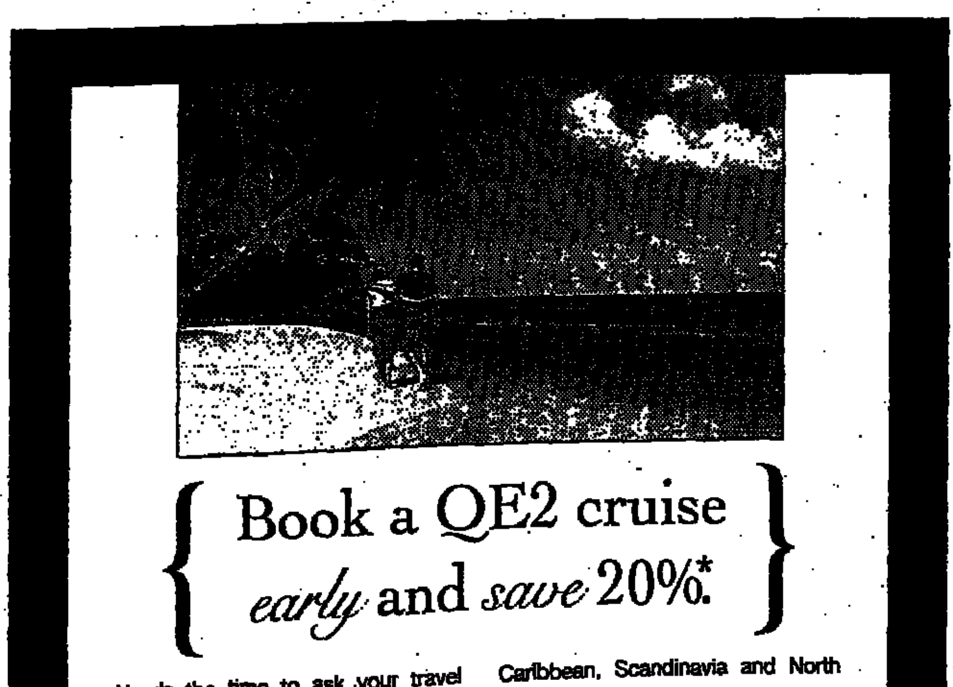
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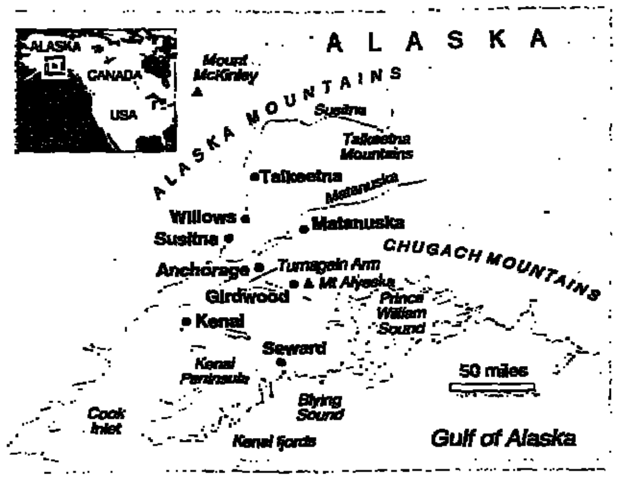
Alaska: When it's 15C under, the bears are fast asleep but the 'strip-tease' and snowmobiling carry on

Chill out in the deep-freeze



Alaska is an outdoorsy, frontiersy kind of place where men are men and so are the women. With wraparound snow vistas and days cut to six hours in mid-winter, at times it can feel as if you are inside a deep-freeze. But to visit in summer would be to wimp out: winter is when the pristine wilderness is at its most dramatic and uncompromising, when the mountains possess a peerless clarity; and — I like a deal — hotel rooms are often half-price.

Alaskans south of the Arctic Circle, enjoying a balmy minus 15C in the winter, go out mushing over iced rivers, spinning light aircraft over hanging glaciers, snowmobiling, climbing frozen waterfalls and fishing through iceholes. The Alaskan philosophy is wrap up warm, get out and enjoy. And, if the weather turns really nasty, Alaskans are good at getting drunk.

I hit town on December 3 after 16 hours in the air. It was midnight in Anchorage and I was on 9am: day was night for me and pretty much for them, too, with darkness falling around 3.40pm and laying in till ten the next morning.

My 17th-floor hotel room looked over a low-slung, gridded city. Streets were compacted snow and more of the white stuff was still falling. The next morning, three minutes from my hotel, I stood looking south over the frozen mudrocks of the Cook Inlet to humpbacked Mount Susitna. Wind gnawed at any exposed flesh and snow swirled off rooftops. Hungry ravens squawked their raucous disputations above office workers langlaufing their way to work along the ten-mile coastal trail. Unlike other cities, instead of suburbs to keep it warm Anchorage is surrounded by wilderness — half an hour on a snowmobile north and I would be in serious bear and wolf country among the white-knuckled peaks of the Chugach Mountains.

And town itself was a different species to the generic at home. Walking up 9th Avenue I passed a moose caught up in the Christmas lights on a spruce tree. In someone's back yard I saw a reindeer kept as a pet and taken for daily walks along 10th Avenue. Instead of civic notables, the only bronze statue in town was of a husky signalling the starting line of "the world's last great race" — the 1,000-mile Iditarod.

At the Oomingmak Shop I admired shawls and mittens woven by Eskimos from the underhair of the primeval musk oxen: at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, I saw a cribbage board carved from walrus ivory, a coat made of cormorant pelts, a belt made of caribou teeth and mukluks (boots) made from transparent fish skins.

At night I trawled the bars and found each, like the restaurants, dressed with stuffed moose and grizzlies as well as the carcasses of 300lb halibuts and 50lb salmon. As I sat in one bar, a hat rack belonging to a moose passed by the window. At Fly by Night, a 1980s Miss Alaska by the name of Alice Wellings went through a surreal put-on rather than strip-off routine, ending up fully clothed in hip waders and a halibut wool coat as the crowd bayed, "Put 'em on, put 'em on".

Those inhabiting what they call the Bush disparagingly say Anchorage is only 30 minutes from the real Alaska, so the next morning I left half of the state's miserly 570,000 population behind me and headed out of town on Northern Lights Avenue which fed into Seward Highway. On my right, the second highest tide in the world was on its way out seeking a route through frozen mud and ice. In the summer beluga and orca whales bask here. Snow swirled like smoke across the road.

Then as I rounded a bend, I saw an overturned car in a pillow of snow steaming like some exhausted husky. A door opened heavenward. With snow up to my knees, I helped the driver get his two young daughters and wife out. When I asked if they were all right, the husband laconically replied, "Sure, buddy, snow's good for flipping over in."

At the gold-mining town of Girdwood, the resort of Alyeska had grown up hopeful that skiing would be the new gold mine. A-frame cabins wore 2ft snow moustaches and dagger icicles dangled from overhangs. On the breakfast menu at the Alyeska Bake Shop I found cinnamon rolls instead of reindeer sausage. This was a resort more for alternative types than frontier people, where local women shun make-up and teach meditation while their husbands work as masseuses when they are not answering air mountain-rescue calls. Alyeska claims to be the lowest ski resort (250ft) in the United States, so you have to endure no two-hour corkscrew drives to reach it. Yet it still manages regularly to figure in the top four for snow coverage.

Onward and upward, climbing frozen waterfalls beside the Seward Highway, only a few miles outside Anchorage

It allegedly has the best view of any US ski area: from the Glacier Terminal there is a panoramic sweep across the Chugach Mountains, Turnagain Arm and seven hanging glaciers. You skip altitude tiredness here, it is usually warmer than at Jackson Hole, and by mid-February it has the longest days of any American ski resort.

Apart from regular downhill, telemark and cross-country skiing, Alyeska boasted other activities from skijoring (getting pulled on skis by dogs) to mushing and snowmobiling. So, having swooped down wonderfully unpopulated slopes for a few hours, I hired snow shoes and set off to explore the wilderness.

The bears, I had been emphatically told, were hibernating. But, being a sceptic by nature, I nervously fingered the just-in-case pepper spray I had in my pocket each time another slab of snow crashed from a tree, rending the cathedral silence. My worst fear was that I might wake one of the black bears fond of the Cajun spicy diet provided by the "dumper" outside the Double Musky restaurant, rendering my spray more of an enticement than a deterrent.

Two hours' drive away in the Matanuska-Susitna region I explored the silent, ethereal Hatcher Pass on a snowmobile, then lunched overlooking the Matanuska Glacier, a miniature Siberia 26 miles long and three miles across whose massive crevasses looked like a wolf's claw marks from the Long Rifle Lodge.

The people I met on my Alaskan odyssey were as memorable as the places I visited. There was Yukon Don, a former gold panner and trapper, who had sailed the entire 2,000 miles of the Yukon River and wore a bearskin coat and a necklace made from bear's teeth and claws and the vertebrae of salmon. There was former psychiatric nurse Dan Little who moved out to the Bush to work in a bar where he said he got "paid better for seeing the same people". There was Alison, a fourth-generation Athabaskan Indian, who showed me a picture of her Russian-speaking grandmother dressed in animal pelts and proudly holding up two rabbits she had just trapped. And there was Jan, a typical incomer, who had left her job as an interpreter at the Los Angeles County Jail after meeting her future husband skydiving.

PAUL ABSE

FACT FILE

- **Northwest Airlines** (01424 224400) flies to Anchorage from most UK airports. Return flights cost from £575 plus £31 departure tax.
- **Car rental** costs from £60 per week (£126 with proper cover and taxes) through Northwest. A fly-drive package with 14 nights' accommodation costs from £1,184 based on two sharing.
- **Double rooms** at Anchorage's Hotel Captain Cook (907 276 6000) cost from £69; at Yukon Don's (907 376 7472), one of Alaska's best inns, in the Mat-Su Valley near Wasilla £39-£63 (with breakfast); at the five-star Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel from £90 — rooms sleep up to four (bookable in UK on 0171-408 0636); Black John's Cabin (with kitchen and two double beds) can be booked through Three Rivers Accommodations (tel/fax 907 733 2741) for £44.
- **Crystal** (0181-399 5144) has one week at Westin Alyeska Prince plus flights and transfers from £579.
- **Things to do:** Lucky Husky Racing Kennel (907 495 6470) for mushing in Mat-Su Valley near Willow. Half-hour £30, one hour £45, full day with campfire lunch £145 per person. Book ahead.
- **Two and a half hour** Kenai Fiords winter cruise with Renown Charters (907 272 1961), £35 departing daily from Seward at midday; lunch included.
- **North Star Treks** (907 745 3144) has cross-country ski treks.
- **Easy Ride Rentals** (907 892 6888) hires snowmachines from £26 per hour on Big Lake. It also features snowmobile ten-day treks for £1,970 per person including food and accommodation. One-hour sightseeing flights over Mount McKinley with K2 Aviation (907 733 2291) cost £45 per person.
- **Reading:** Arctic Dreams, by Barry Lopez (Pan, £7.99, ISBN 0 330 29538 1). To the Top of Denali, by Bill Sherwonit (Alaska Northwest Books, £8.95, ISBN 0 882 40402 4).

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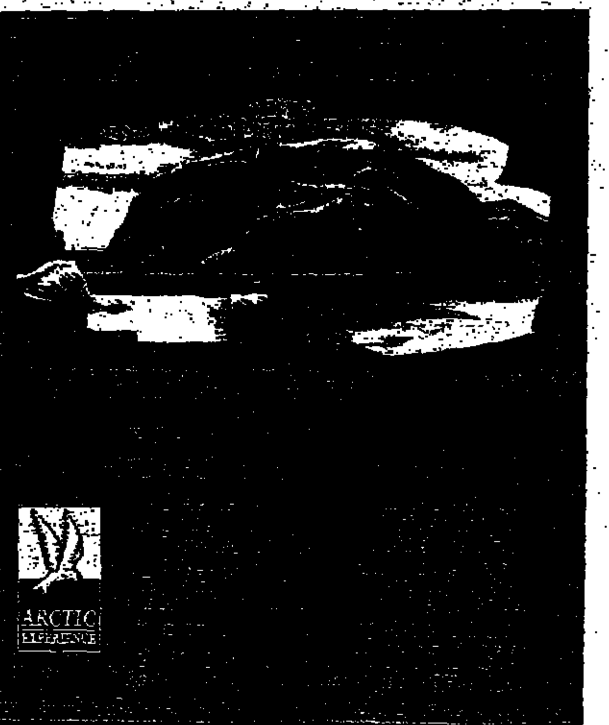

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Britain: On a hike from south to north, **Robin Neillands** recommends delightful spots away from the crowds

Secrets of a long-distance walker

GEOFF COWEN

Robin Neillands pauses in the northern Pennines on his long walk of discovery from the coast of Dorset to the north of Cumbria and across the Scottish border to Portpatrick

TO SUGGEST that England is an undiscovered country is to invite ridicule. England is not Antarctica, though it sometimes felt like it last May when I was walking from the south coast to Hadrian's Wall. On that journey I passed through some surpassingly beautiful country, so, because good things should be shared, here is a selection of little known places well worth visiting. There are plenty more like these for those who make the time to look around:

SOUTH DORSET AND THE FLEET

The Fleet is a great saltwater lake trapped off the Dorset coast by the Chelsil Bank. I came on it in the evening, when the air was still, the clouds were pink-tipped by the setting sun and, apart from squadrons of swans floating serenely on the water, the place was deserted — and this only a couple of miles from the busy resort of Weymouth.

Apart from tranquility, the Fleet has history: it has been a nature reserve since 1393 and the swans are still protected and cared for by the Swannery at Abbotsford. The little church beside the shore at Old Fleet is all that remains of the village, destroyed in the last century by a tidal wave, but the church was a haunt of smugglers and features in John Meade Falkners classic tale *Moonfleet*.

South Dorset is a special place in a much-neglected county; Dorchester and the Thomas Hardy country pull in the crowds, but The Fleet is the place to linger.

SEVERN VALLEY

A good way to see the Severn Valley is to follow the Severn Way footpath. I walked north on it for several days, through fine towns such as Tewkesbury, with its ancient abbey, and Worcester, with its cathedral overlooking the county cricket ground, then up-river to places like Stourport-on-Severn, a Mecca for river craft, and Bewdley.

Bewdley is small and pretty and lies at the southern end of the Severn Valley Railway, one of those newly restored lines that give character to the countryside. Because it was Saturday and the engines were "in steam", I took the train up to Hampton Loads, where one of the last Severn ferries carries passengers to the eastern bank; fare, 20p.

The Severn Valley around Bewdley is a little visited part of England, and the Severn Valley Guest House in Bewdley, run by a passionate railway buff, is a good place to stay while touring.

STAFFORDSHIRE WAY

This is another of England's under-used footpaths, which I picked up near Codsall and followed, to Uttoxeter, cutting through Cannock Chase, to skirt Birmingham, and head up towards the Peaks. The towns are not pretty but there is a lot of good, open country, ideal for gentle walking, with plenty of pleasant villages and an abundance of cheerful B&Bs; one that sticks in the mind had a notice on the bedroom door saying: "Guests are kindly requested not to do their ironing on the carpet."

The tourists who come this way are heading for the Peak District, but the 92-mile-long Staffordshire Way is ideal for a one-week, crowd-free, autumn walk, and I commend it.

WEST OF THE PENNINES

The Pennine Way, north of Buxton, is partly a bog and partly paved, and not all that attractive. Fortunately, the lower country to the west is delightful and threaded with towpaths and footpaths. Further west lies a great swath of industrial cities around Manchester, but there is plenty of open moorland here and it is easy, and fun, to keep away from the cities, either using canal towpaths, or tramping on moorland routes such as the Oldham Way and the Burnley Way.

The Green Ash Hotel in Delph is a good place to stay, but other places to mark on the map are Uppermill and Denshaw for exploring the country to the north into Calderdale. Perfect.

AROUND MORECAMBE BAY

Morecambe is one of the great northwestern tourist resorts, but north of Morecambe the crowds thin out. The big attraction of Morecambe Bay, apart from the spectacular sunsets, is the walk across the sands with Cedric Robinson, the Queen's Guide, who leads parties across the wide and treacherous estuary of the River Kent, from Arnside to Grange-over-Sands.

Arnside is a delightful little resort, small with just a promenade lined with guest houses, pubs and small restaurants, but a splendid spot for walkers and birdwatchers. The whole area is spattered with nature reserves, flocks of wading birds parade across the sands, and those who fancy a spot of adventure can join Mr Robinson for his weekly bay walks.

NORTHERN LAKES

The golden rule in the Lake District is to head for the high fells as soon as you arrive and avoid the whole place in summer when it becomes overcrowded. In early spring it is magnificent.

I spent two days here, based at Laurel Cottage, a superb B&B in Windermere, touring into the northern fells with the Mountain Goat company, which runs tours throughout Lakeland.

There are superb walks everywhere in the Lake District: around Buttermere and Coniston, over Helvellyn and around the Langdales, but one not to miss is the full day tramp up Scafell Pike, at 977m (3,200ft) the highest mountain in England. A day up on Scafell, with sweeping views over the lakes below and a couple of well-earned pints at the Dungeon Ghyll Hotel on the way back... Try it.

NORTHERN PENNINES

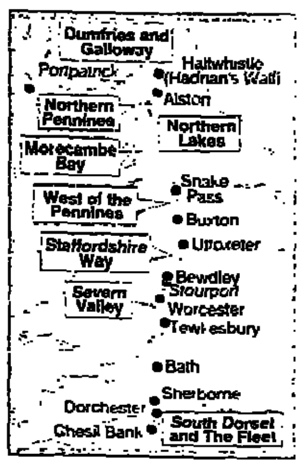
This is hill-walking country, a place for cheerful people wearing serious boots. I walked there over the Roman road called High Street from Windermere to Askham, and then on to Dufton, at the foot of the Pennines, both villages full of 17th-century cottages.

At Dufton I picked up the Pennine Way and followed it for 20 miles over the open hills around Crossfell to Alston, the highest market town in England. All these places have good pubs and inexpensive B&Bs, but the great attraction is outstandingly beautiful country, with a merciful absence of crowds.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

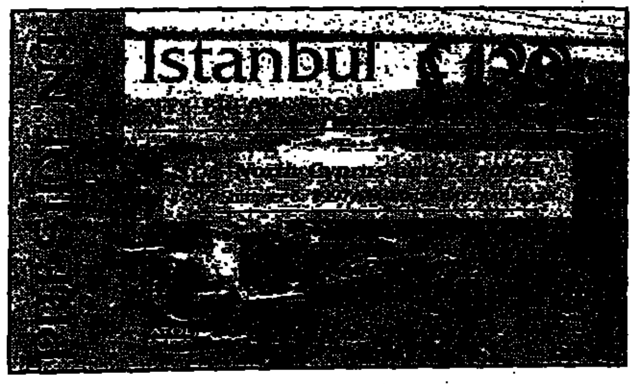
Hadrian's Wall marked the end of my walk but, before I headed back south, I crossed the Scottish border into Dumfries and Galloway and to Knockinaam Lodge, a small hotel at Portpatrick near Stranraer. Knockinaam is on the beach, without another house in miles, with good food and an amazing array of malt whiskies in the bar. The main tourist attractions up here are golf and the Robbie Burns Country, but Knockinaam is well off the too-well-beaten track, in country where sub-tropical gardens are warmed by the Gulf Stream, where long empty beaches host flocks of seabirds and where, just a few miles across the ocean, are the green hills of Northern Ireland.

After four, hard weeks travelling across England on foot, it was magic.



FACT FILE

- B&B prices range from £16-£25 a night.
- The guide *The Staffordshire Way*, by Les Lumsdon and Chris Rushton, is published by Sigma Leisure, Wilmslow, Cheshire (01625 531035) at £6.95.
- OS maps of routes and footpaths mentioned from bookshops or Stanfords Map Shop, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2 (mail order, 0171-836 1321).
- Full information on Arnside, the Lake District and the north Pennines from the Cumbria Tourist Board, Ashleigh, Holly Road, Windermere (01539 444444).
- Details on crossing Morecambe Bay from Cedric Robinson, the Queen's Guide (015395 32165).
- Mountain Goat Tours, Windermere, 01539 445161. Laurel Cottage, Windermere, 01539 45594. Knockinaam Lodge, Portpatrick, near Stranrar, 01776 810471. Severn Valley Guest House, Bewdley, 01299 402192. Green Ash Hotel, Delph, 01457 871035.
- Detailed information available at the tourist information centres in the places mentioned.



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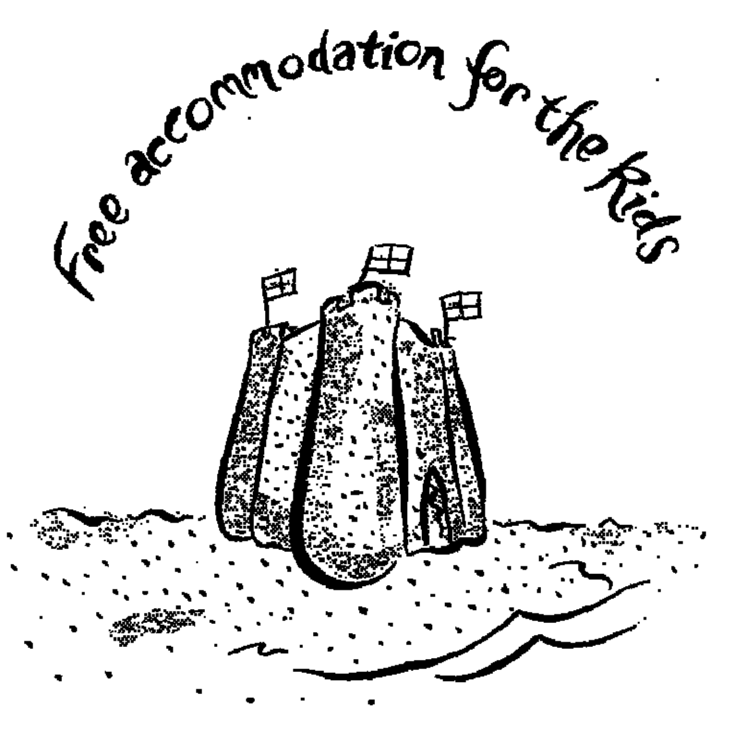
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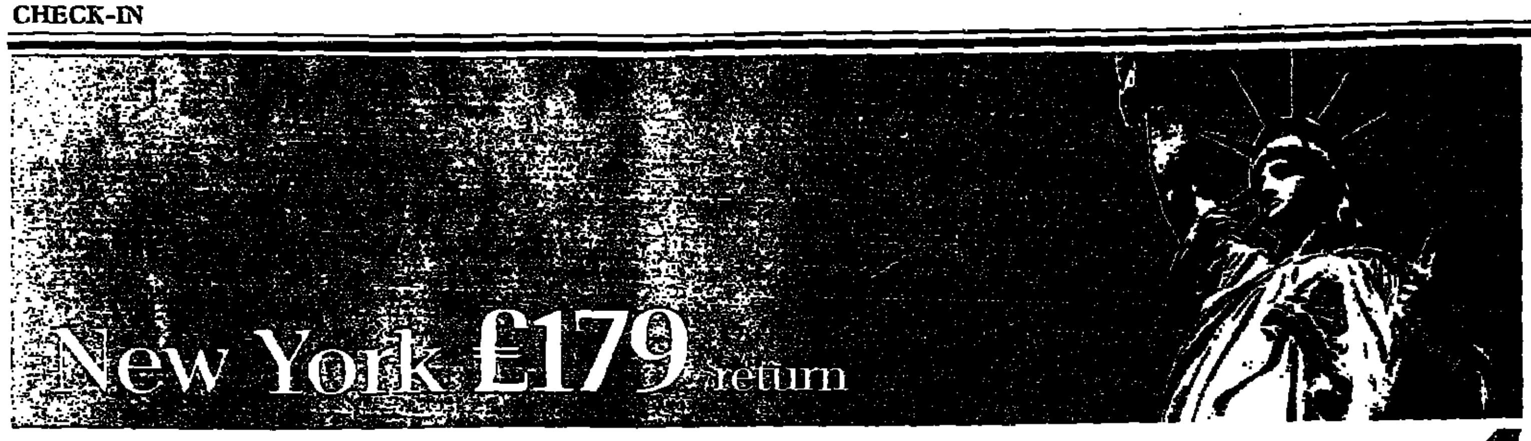

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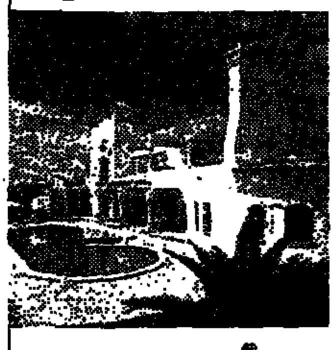

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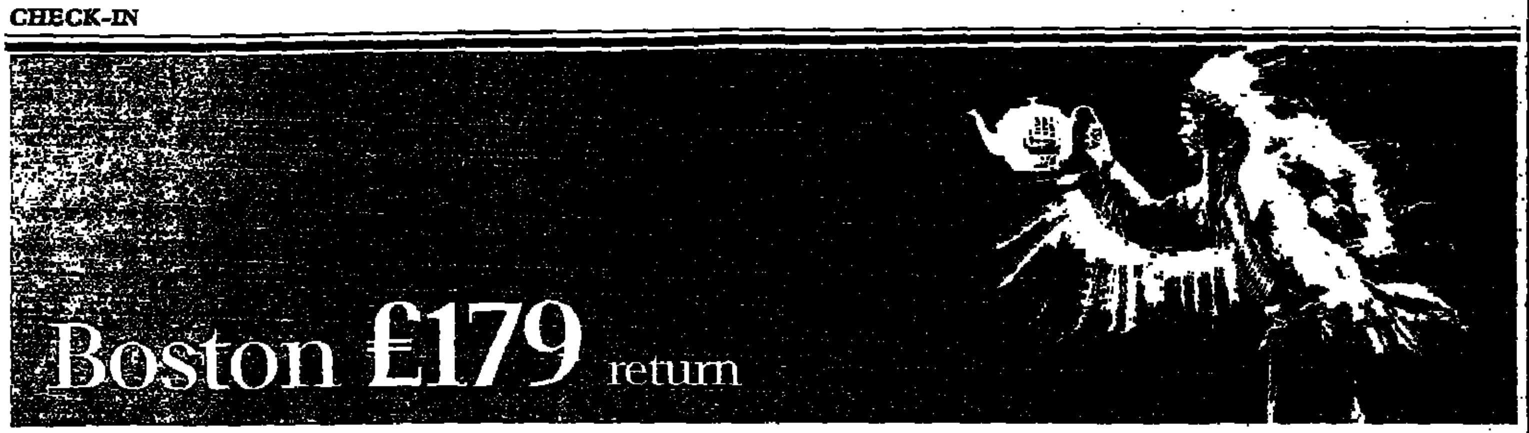

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JILL CRAWSHAW'S **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS**

Join jumbos and dragons

PAYING volunteers are needed by Earthwatch (01865 311600) for 130 environmental projects worldwide. In Botswana, they'll tackle the problem of too many elephants — the country has 75,000 of them — and be based at Chobe National Park, where there are 30,000 elephants in 7,000 square miles, monitoring behaviour and damage to acacia trees. The two-week project costs £1,120 without flights.

On the Indonesian island of Komodo, home of the six-foot "dragons", the fork-tongued lizards threatened with extinction, volunteers will study their habitat, genetic patterns and prey (the latter includes the odd tourist, notably a Swiss visitor in 1979, and their own young). Primeval nasties, their evil-smelling breath and saliva is so toxic that victims often die from the bite. The project, also two weeks, costs £1,100.

The Earthwatch catalogue costs £3.50 for non-members (membership costs £25).

Booking now

AN OBSESSION with Spain over the past 25 years inspired Keith Harris to collect more than 3,000 books on the country. They are now available by mail order from Books on Spain (0181-898 7789).

Among his favourites is *Two Middle-Aged Ladies in Andalusia* (one of the ladies is a mare), by Penelope Chetwode, wife of the late Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, a 1963 1st edition (John Murray) costing £30, later editions from £10. Another favourite is *The Bible in Spain or The Journeys, Adventures and Imprisonments of an Englishman in an Attempt to Circulate the Scriptures in the Peninsula*, by the eccentric George Borrow, published in 1843 by John Murray, an antiquarian edition costing £120, later editions from £10.

Rail trail

FIVE ALPINE passes, a cruise on a paddle steamer on Lake Lucerne and trips on Austria's narrow-gauge railways are included on a 15-day Alpine Tour from Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969). Travel is by first-class rail, starting with Eurostar from Waterloo to Paris, TGV to Lausanne, and a combination of Swiss rack-and-pinion railways, cable cars, Austrian vintage steam trains and the Eurocity train over the Brenner Pass into Italy. Price £1,590, half board.

Paris line

RETURN COACH fares from any point in England and Wales to Paris from £54 for under 26s and over 60s, £58 for other adults, is offered by Eurolines (0990 143219) with National Express. From Scotland, the return fares are from £59 and £63 respectively. The journeys are via Victoria Coach Station.

Rent a cave

COTTAGES, châteaux and a winemaker's "cave" are among the 500 self-catering properties offered by Vacances en Campagne (01798 869461). For a party of eight in what is reputedly the oldest village house in the Dordogne showpiece La Roque Gageac, the costs are £1,116-£2,078. A 15th-century restored château, with a pool, near the Marais Poitevin in the Vendée, sleeping 15, costs from £2,978. The converted winemaker's cave, now with a pool, in La Palme, Languedoc, can accommodate up to eight people and costs from £1,460. Prices are for two weeks and include ferry fares for one car and passengers, or local car hire for a week.

Lake break

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Going rural

THE NEW brochure Simply Portugal (0181-995 9323) from the Simply Travel Service offers *quintas* (manor houses), farms and villas from Ponte de Lima in the north, to the delightful Tavira, and around Loulé, Sao Bras de Alportel and other lesser-known resorts in the Algarve. A week at the Gallery, an artist's apartment in the heart of Tavira's cobbled old town, costs £355-£430 each for two people. A seven-day tour called Wandering Portugal offers flights, car hire and accommodation in a choice of historic pousadas, the traditional Portuguese inns, from £499.

RICHARD PACKWOOD

The population explosion of elephants in Botswana is causing problems. Earthwatch is seeking volunteers to monitor their behaviour

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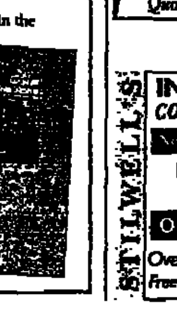

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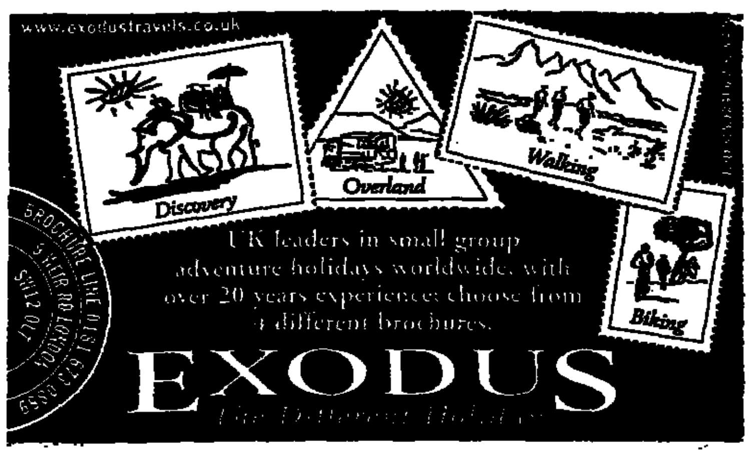

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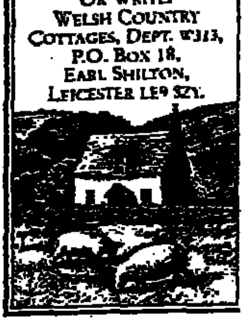

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

LAST MONTH's Las Palmas tournament featured the top six players in the world, making it one of the strongest ever held. By winning it by a margin of a clear point, the world champion, Garry Kasparov, demonstrated that he is still the dominant force, and that his mediocre results over the past year have been blips rather than a trend. He must have been particularly delighted with his win against Vassily Ivanchuk, who has twice beaten him in the past year and a half.

W: Kasparov, B: Ivanchuk

1 e4 Nf6. Alekhine's Defence is a particularly challenging line to adopt in a crucial game.

2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6
4 Nf3 g6

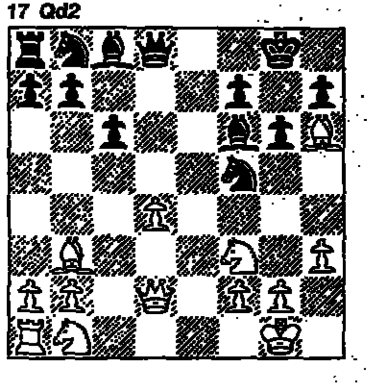
This is the modern way of handling this defence. Black develops his bishop on the flank and prepares to pummel White's extended pawn centre.

5 Bc4 c6 6 0-0 Bg7
7 h3 0-0 8 exd6 exd6
9 Re1 Nc7 10 Bg5 Bf6
11 Bh6 Re8 12 Rxe8+ Nxe8

Black's gyrations with his king's knight appear eccentric, but he has created a situation in which the pawn structure is symmetrical and his development does not lag far behind White's. In other words, a draw would not be unexpected, and a draw with Black against Kasparov is quite a success.

13 Bb3. A deep move, preparing to undermine Black's centre with c4. The seemingly more natural 13 Nc3 allows 13 . . . d5 when the position really is level.

13 . . . d5 14 c4 dxc4
15 Bxc4 Nd6 16 Bb3 Nf5
17 Qd2



In order to retain an open diagonal for his bishop on b3, Kasparov has been obliged to render his d4-pawn defenceless.

However, if Black takes it there is hidden compensation. For example, 17 . . . Nxd4 18 Nxd4 Bxd4 19 Nc3, with a powerful lead in development and many threats.

Alternatively, 18 . . . Qxd4 19 Qe1 Qe5 20 Nc3 Qxe1+ 21 Rxe1, when Black *probably has nothing* better than 21 . . . Be6 22 Bxe6 fxe6 23 Rxe6, with a small but clear advantage to White. Ivanchuk had *doubtless* been basing his entire opening strategy on the weakness of White's isolated queen's pawn. So, when the time came to take it and he found this impossible, his morale was dashed.

17 . . . Nd7 18 Nc3 Nxh6
19 Qxh6

Black has averted immediate danger, and even gained the bishop pair, but the nagging pressure exerted by White's remaining bishop still leaves Black far short of achieving equality.

19 . . . Nf8 20 Rd1 Be6
21 d5 cxd5 22 Nxd5 Rc8
23 Qe3 b6 24 Ne5

A superb example of centralising one's pieces. White's forces are now ideally placed to attack *on either* flank.

24 . . . Rc5 25 Ng4 *Bxg4*. 25 . . . Bxb2 fails to 26 Ndf6+ *while* 25 . . . *Bxd5 26 Bxd5 Rxd5* 27 Rxd5 Qxd5 loses after 28 Nxf6+.

Black's decision to remove White's dangerous knight is, therefore, understandable.

26 hxg4 Kg7 27 f4. But Black now has to face a *pawn storm* with the bishop on f6 as a particular target.

27 . . . h6 28 f5 g5
29 Qe2 Nh7 30 Nxf6 Qxf6
31 Rd7

The final reinforcement of White's attack along the a2-g8 diagonal. Once Black's pawn on f7 falls, his case becomes hopeless.

31 . . . Re5 32 Rxf7+ Qxf7
33 Qxe5+ Qf6 34 Qc7+ Kh8
35 Kh1 a5 36 Be6 Nf8

Black resigns.

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 35, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 22.

"Apparently, it's the first time that Branson's lost his own luggage"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by R. Sargent of Bristol

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LETHIFEROUS
a. Causing to forget
b. Deadly
c. Bearing spores

MONITION
a. Sideways drift
b. A warning
c. Introducing money

LASCARINE
a. An old Indian soldier
b. A laxative
c. A dancing girl

LUBISH
a. A coin
b. Rude, lubricious
c. Chinese rubbish

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS WAS Question 3 in the *Christmas Quiz. Partner deals and* opens One Spade; you hold:

♠AKJ6♥AKJ1083♦J♣J9

What do you reply? (10 points).

The hand occurred in the first match of the 1996-97 BBL Premier League, a teams event played to help the British selectors sort out the sheep from the goats. But I think the problem would be the same at rubber bridge.

In general you need to have at least second-round control in all suits before you launch into Blackwood, and that is what I have been recommending in the current series of Refresher columns on slam bidding. However, I think that 4NT is a reasonable speculation, and the most practical bid, on this hand.

If you bid Three Hearts in classic fashion, it's not clear how you should continue on the next round — the bidding has already got uncomfortably high.

An immediate 4NT has two things going for it: if partner shows one ace you can bid Six Spades and leave the opening leader completely in the dark as to where to attack; and if partner shows two aces you can reasonably take a pot at Seven Spades.

Anyway, that's what I bid at the table, and Senior and I then bid the good grand slam. I gave 4NT 10 points; for the space reasons I mention above, I prefer Two Hearts (5 points) to Three Hearts (0 points).

The complete deal is shown at the top of the next column.. Three tables out of eight stopped in Six Spades; in each case North started with Three Hearts over One Spade.

Dealer South Love all IMP's

North:
♠AKJ6
♥AKJ1083
♦J
♣J9

West:
♠108
♥Q9765
♦K72
♣K73

East:
♠4
♥42
♦Q10864
♣Q10864

South:
♠Q97532
♥-
♦A953
♣A52

Contract: Seven Spades
Lead: eight of spades

How would you play Seven Spades? One declarer put *himself* firmly with the goats by playing a second round of trumps at trick two. That was just admitting he had not counted his tricks. *There* are six in spades, two in hearts, and two minor-suit aces. Two diamond ruffs will make twelve, so declarer needs to develop a long heart for the thirteenth.

The correct technique, found by the other four declarers, is to ruff a heart (with the queen to be absolutely safe) at trick two, then play a second trump to dummy and continue ruffing out the hearts, using diamonds ruffs as further entries to dummy. This line will fail only in the improbable circumstances of West having six or seven hearts headed by the queen. Playing a second trump at trick two leaves declarer an entry short.

● The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, from January 22-24. Information: 0181-878 5844. Ticket offer, page 8.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

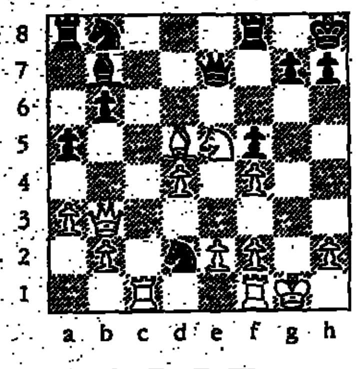
White to play. This position is from the game Gausel - Briem, Reykjavik 1996.

Black must have felt optimistic here as he has just forked the white queen and rook. What has he overlooked?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bg8

Last week's winner: H G Brown, Penryn, Cornwall.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WHAT A crook! I have just lost a fortune I never had, $104 million, and now I'm off for a stroll around the boat — I just hope it doesn't have slippery sides. Actually the boat in question is not some millionaire's yacht moored off the Canaries but VCI Software's *steaming* **Riverboat Card Game Compendium** bringing with it *memories of the Mississippi.*

Tying up endlessly variable versions of solitaire, cribbage, blackjack and poker, human players compete with a dozen legends from the riverboat era like Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Annie Oakley and George Custer. No two legends approach playing and gambling tactics the same way and gameplay is fast and efficient. Tweaking the betting rules of the PC CD-Rom lets you increase the pot in million dollar increments, regardless of your credit status, which can add a quirky buzz to the proceedings.

Plenty of options allow for tailoring Riverboat to your every whim, including importing backgrounds to replace the common green baize — I've ended up with a more arty, eye-pleasing and stylish terra cotta pattern instead.

The greatest artist of the 20th century is Pablo Picasso, the inventor of modern art of whom everyone holds an opinion on whether his works please or offend the eye. Though Ismail and Ivory's latest film *Surviving Picasso* is listless, with Anthony Hopkins *curiously* giving the genius a welsh accent, you get a *much clearer picture of* what he was about in the new *Grolier dual-format Mac and* PC CD-Rom, **Picasso.**

This is a title of rare beauty, having been given practically *unlimited access to all of* Picasso's archives as well as bold endorsement from *the* son of his mistress Françoise *Gilot, Claude. It* immaculately traces Picasso's birth in 1881 in Malaga, Spain, to his burial in 1973 in France and all he brought us in between. This is done with archive footage and slides plus an unprecedented 600 Picasso originals, brought together from 76 locations such as the Tate in London, the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris and New York's Museum of Modern Art. The 17 main periods in Picasso's art are authoritatively covered, showing the main aspects and influences of his work thematically and chronologically.

The Grolier CD-Rom lets you view 600 Picasso originals

Gertrude Stein said Picasso could see round corners. Picasso said he painted objects as he thought them, not as he saw them. Thanks to seven "manitools", you can see a hundred or so of Picasso's major works from several viewpoints to reveal composition, construction and technique evolution.

Picasso's work only rarely turns up on multimedia CD-Roms — and then only in small numbers. For that alone this CD-Rom is the best Picasso treasury on the market. Whether the Grolier gem is the reason permissions to reproduce Picasso pieces have apparently been held up by *the family for the last year or* so is unclear. None of his works appeared in News Multimedia's **Makers of the 20th Century**, *nor on the* National Gallery CD-Rom *when it was first released.*

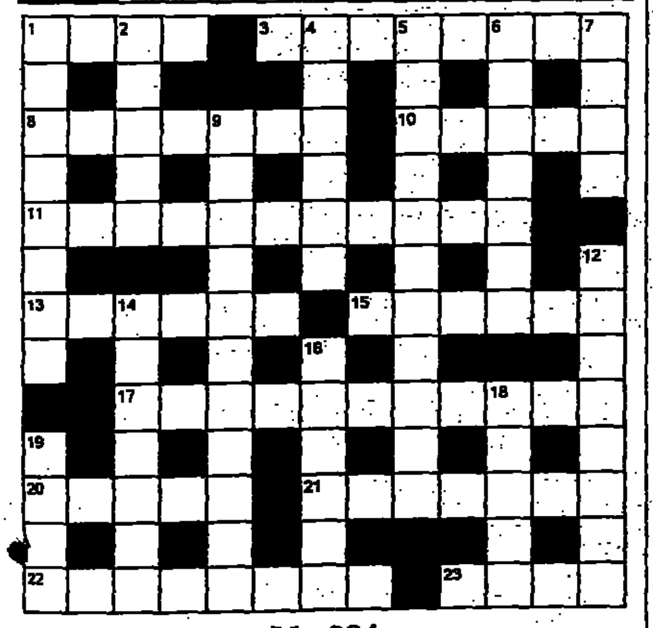
Still, 17 of his works appear *in the Tate Gallery's PC CD-*Rom **Investigating 20th Century Art**. This scholarly title is intended for the classroom, *coming with both user's and* teacher's notes, but works just *as well at home. Descriptions* are crisp and immediate and picture reproductions are respectable. However you set off, all routes are enlightening.

More relaxed and endearing is Calliope's **Rings — Five Passions in World Art**. This is a slight but spellbinding exploration of the universal human emotions of love, anguish, awe, triumph and joy. A selection of sculptures and pictures spanning seven centuries from six continents come together — and it has the smoothest of magnifying facilities yet.

Two Picasso entries feature here, *Mother With Dead Child* and *Head of a Weeping Woman With Handkerchief*, under the anguish heading. But the most inspiring *entry is from the love ring,* Jean-Leon Gerome's *Pygmalion and Galatea*, which hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. *As the narrator* explains: "The sculptor, Pygmalion, fell *so intensely in love* with his statue that the very force of his *emotion brought her to life, with a* little help from the goddess of love, Aphrodite. *Her son, Cupid,* we see in the background as we watch the *cold marvel of Galatea's legs* become living flesh as the sculptor *flings down his mallet in a wildly* passionate embrace." Rings, on *dual-format Mac and PC CD-Rom,* is the stuff sighs are made of.

"Save wasting time and unnecessary expense on backing up your files. Simply jot down a copy of all your work into an A4-lined pad as you go along." Cyberspace Twenty-Nine Top Tip entry from N. Salter of Thame, Oxon.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 994

ACROSS
1 Pond plant; run to attack (4)
3 Contiguous (8)
8 Soft roll (7)
10 Something to write on, to *sleep on* (5)
11 Its grin stayed longest (*Carroll*) (8,3)
13 Kind; science journal (6)
15 Uncivilised; fierce (6)
17 Polite, obliging (11)
20 One from outer space (5)
21 (View) that can be held (7)
22 — Swinburne; — Moncrieff (*Wilde - Importance*) (8)
23 Leave out (4)

DOWN
1 Ruddy (8)
2 Work slackly (*slang*) (5)
4 Depressingly dull (6)
5 Club; friendship (11)
6 Daughter of Agamemnon (7)
7 Ballet skirt (4)
9 *Moonlight Sonata* key (1,5,5)
12 Having perceptions (8)
14 Mattress fabric: making clock noise (7)
16 Very drunk (*slang*) (6)
18 Cuttings book (5)
19 Icelandic family story (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 993

ACROSS: 1 Truthful 5 *Spot* 8 *Lying* 9 *Unusual* 11 Vie 12 Fieldsman 13 Virile 15 Wretch 18 Apostolic 19 Can 20 Extinct 21 Ovine 22 Dire 23 Deadlock

DOWN: 1 Tel Aviv 2 Unite 3 Highfalutin' 4 Usurer 6 Plummet 7 Talon 10 Under a cloud 14 Rooster 16 *Henpeck* 17 Clothe 18 Ahead 19 Chico

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TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each, solo/team facility and optional *HELP levels*). *Includes:* Times Crosswords (19) + Omnibus I & 2 (2 + 2). The Times Concise (4) The Times Two (5) — The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87 (1). (Brackets denote number of diskettes)

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3393: Key Ring by Mass

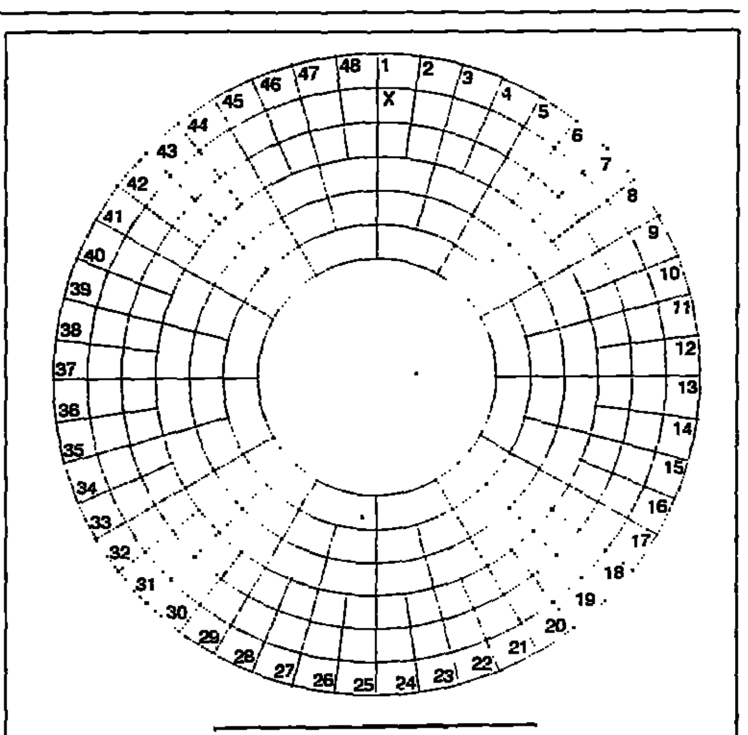
RADIAL ENTRIES read from rim to centre or vice versa, 24 of each; and the six unclued thematic entries in circuit x, one a phrase, read clockwise. Each sector is served by (a) two normal clues and (b) two abnormal clues in which definitions indicate full answers and subsidiary parts indicate the residual forms after omission of a letter wherever it occurs in that answer. The omitted letters clockwise from sector 1/4 spell out a key phrase which in a Playfair Code Square to be plotted by solvers (as below) gives the following coded equivalents: TZ LA MG UM DS WF PY TL PQ VS SE LZ. The key word in the square, thematic by fanciful association, should be written below the ring.

Playfair Code: A Playfair Square has a key expression in which no letter recurs (eg TURNKEY) followed by the rest of the alphabet (I=I/J). Any expression to be encided is split into pairs of letters (eg EM-BA-RK). Each pair is seen as forming the opposite corners of a rectangle within the code square, the other two corner letters being the coded form. Thus, EM gives YL (not LY which ME would give). If a pair of letters occurs in the same row or column, use letters immediately to the right of or below each respectively (BA gives CB). For the last letter in the row or column use the first letter of the same row or column (RK gives NT). *Chambers Dictionary* (1993) is recommended.

T U R N K
E Y A B C
D F G H I
L M O P Q
S V W X Z

RADIALS (6)

1	Glowing from a liquid measure in SE
2	Goatish face of Comus, and satyr's tail, in wood
3	Arouse affections with odd piece on organ
4	Extremity causing ecstasy
5	Pulse still irregular about noon
6	Split society stirring against Right
7	Drab Poles? Money no longer rolls in
8	Strike editor panned
9	Five among trees abused legal right to timber
10	Concerning Caesar's power, face of Egypt is further proof
11	Rest in debt apparently showed dependence
12	Slight breeze — Southern river beginning to ruffle
13	Quarrel, assert and stamp about
14	See-through top piece enthralls dated youth
15	"He was a verray parfit gentil knight" indeed? In Shakespeare?
16	Cool (heartless) fat cabbage
17	Hounds defaced property
18	East in phase, radiating
19	*Drunkard with short round (ponies, perhaps)*
20	Posts roughly about 1,000 — costly
21	*Character gobbling American dish*
22	British Liberal in the cart, monotonously
23	*Piece of brick gets Edward clobbered*
24	Grub experts died and most of tsetse flies
25	*Once set free, Sappers move obliquely*
26	Others, note, make good
27	Constituency marking an alternative political representative
28	Neat historical centre for co-religionists
29	One hears of a marvellous marital relationship in past
30	Trouble back in East, previously unexpected
31	Take in wallop? It's a race at wedding for Scotch
32	Callosity? Sounds like rank rough sole
33	LAtin women, recalling former injury, scowled
34	Source of insecticide, bit of root, dries crinkly on outside
35	Sodden tramps about lack of hope
36	Indicate Shakespeare's set apart
37	*Cover curtailed with reduced bank order*
38	Letter about Spanish champion's resolve
39	*Swaggered? Drawcansir finally p-played the coward?*
40	Brother shown the way, worn out
41	*Evangelical Union has Christian related to Greek painter*
42	Incapable of art that is trimmer (hyphen)
43	*Local voice from flat at end of street*
44	Card crushing bridge player's faded dream
45	*Charged main with electric flux*
46	Stops R.I. in schools
47	*Gin? Before quitting Peregrine's pickled*
48	Olive's relative has power to fascinate



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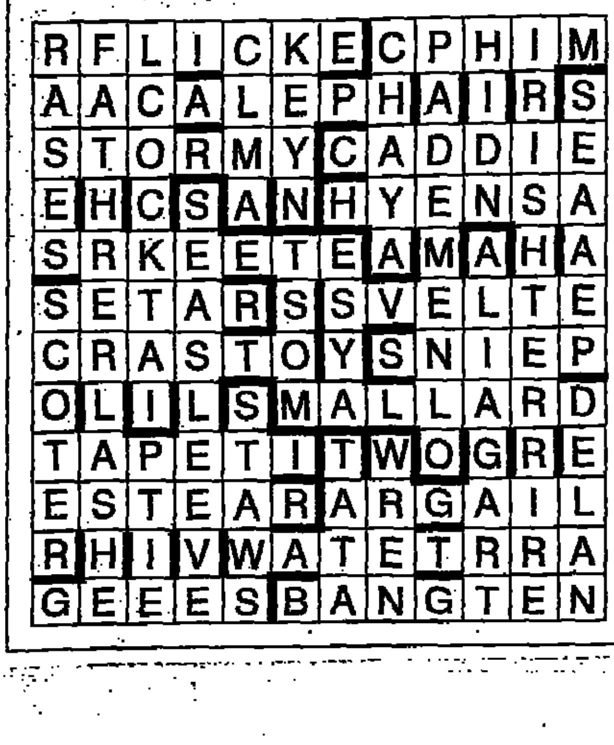

R	F	L	I	C	K	E	C	P	H	I	M
A	A	C	A	L	E	P	H	A	I	R	S
S	T	O	R	M	Y	C	A	D	D	I	E
E	H	C	S	A	N	H	Y	E	N	S	A
S	R	K	E	E	T	E	A	M	A	H	A
S	E	T	A	R	S	S	V	E	L	T	E
C	R	A	S	T	O	Y	S	N	I	E	P
O	L	I	L	S	M	A	L	L	A	R	D
T	A	P	E	T	I	T	W	O	G	R	E
E	S	T	E	A	R	A	R	G	A	I	L
R	H	I	V	W	A	T	E	T	R	R	A
G	E	E	E	S	B	A	N	G	T	E	N

Solution to No 3390: *Pin the Tail* on the Donkey by Smokey

ACROSS

1 flicker, 6 chimp, 10 acalepha, 15 hyenas, 16 *skeeter, 20 stare, 22 castor,* 23 snipe, 25 Mallard, 27 tapeti, 31 steare, 32 argali, 33 water-rat, 34 geese, 35 banteng, . Down, 1 rasse, 2 father-lasher, 3 cocktail, 4 clam, 5 kyne, 7 pademelon, 8 hind, 9 Irish terrier, 11 sea-ape, 14 sea-sleeve, 17 toms, 18 eyas, 19 aligarta, 20 scoter, 26 eland, 28 piet, 30 Wren.

The winner is P. Thomas of London NW2

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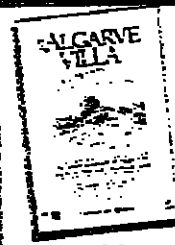

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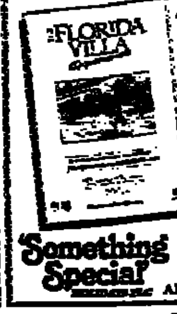

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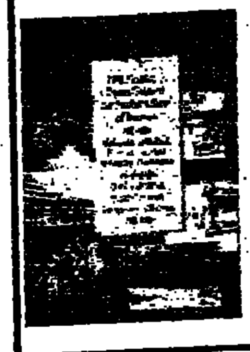

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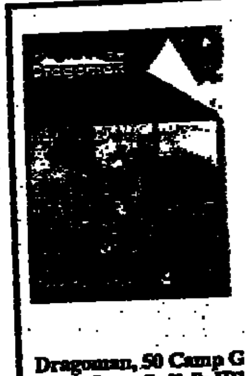

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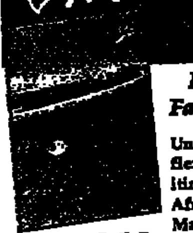

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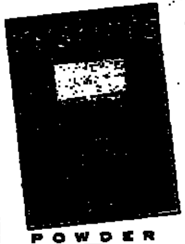

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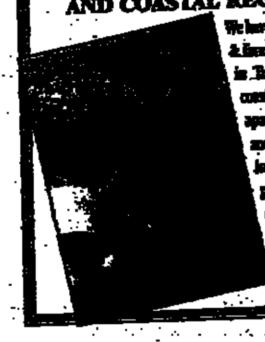

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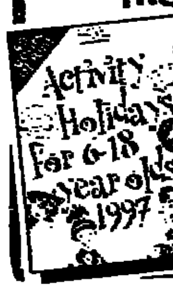

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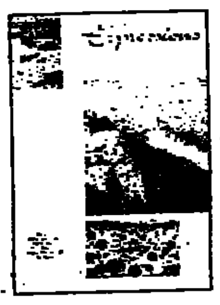

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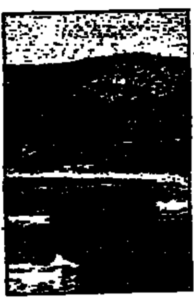

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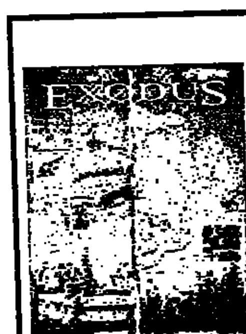

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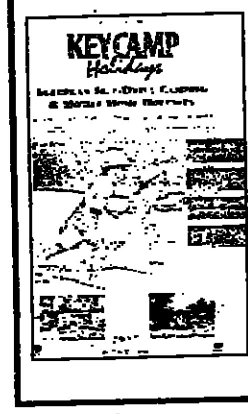

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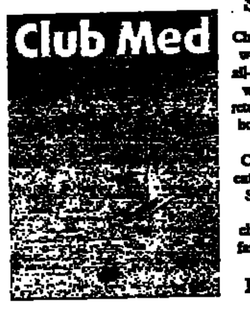

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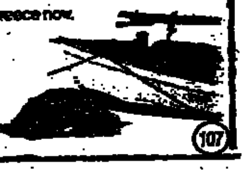

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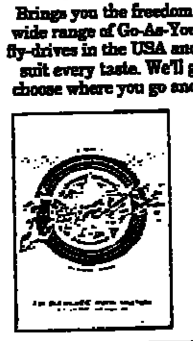

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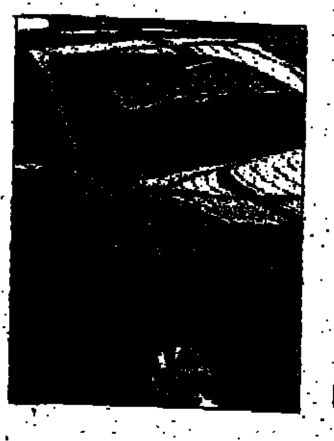

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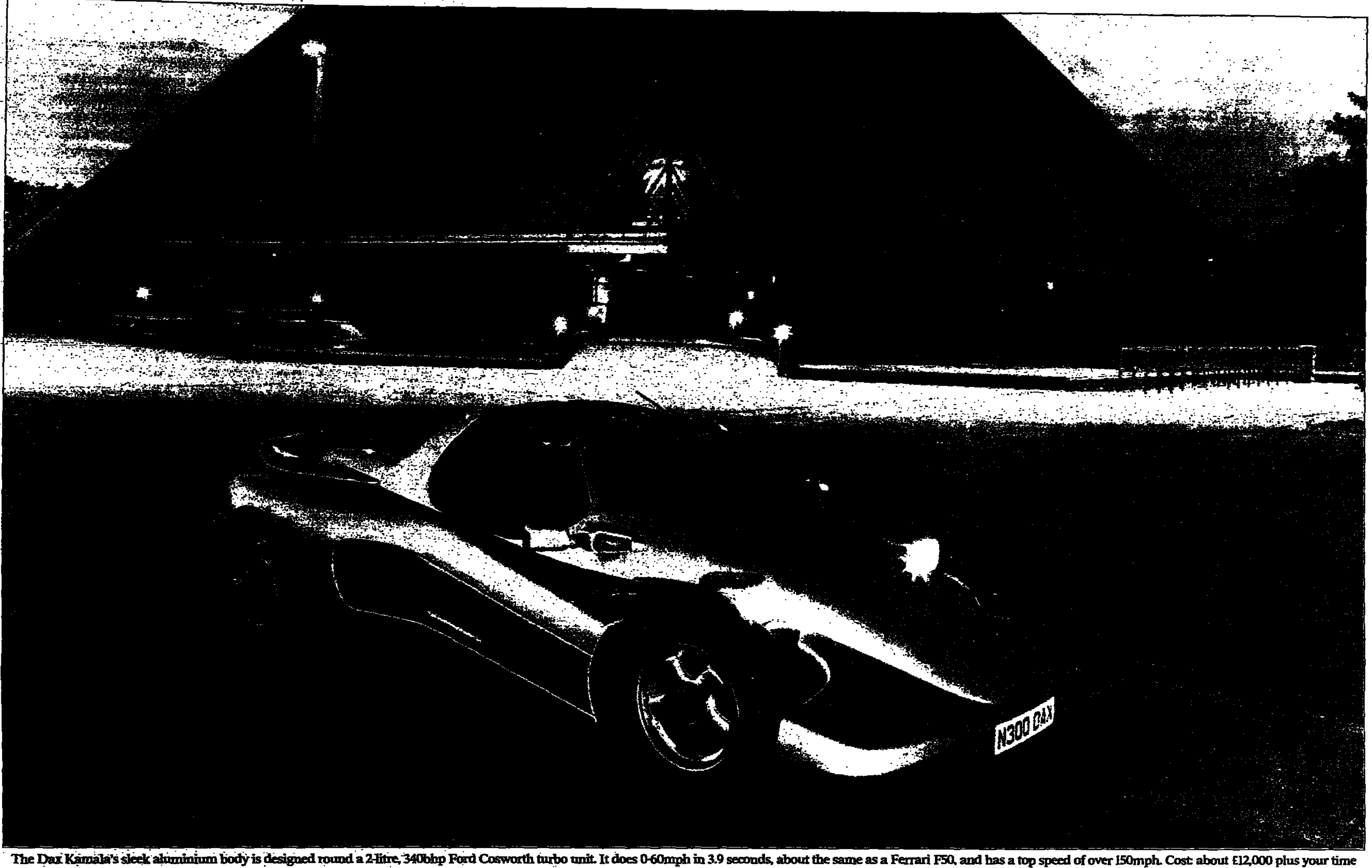
THE TIMES
CAR 97

The latest big ideas come from Toyota engineers

Page 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1997

Safely kitted out for the road



The Dax Kamala's sleek aluminium body is designed round a 2-litre, 340bhp Ford Cosworth turbo unit. It does 0-60mph in 3.9 seconds, about the same as a Ferrari F50, and has a top speed of over 150mph. Cost: about £12,000 plus your time

They offer style and performance with an affordable price tag. Now kit cars will have added official approval, reports **Eve-Ann Prentice**

The photograph above might look like the scene outside a powerbroker's office in downtown Dallas: the chief-exec's supercar parked proudly outside the state-of-the-art building. In fact it's a kit car pictured outside a swimming pool in Bedford.

The kit car industry is largely based on selling two things that most of us think we can't afford: looks that can thrill and performance to make you gasp. The Dax Kamala in the picture has both: its sleek aluminium body is designed round a 2-litre, 340bhp Ford Cosworth turbo unit. It does 0-60mph in 3.9 seconds, about the same as a Ferrari F50, and has a top speed of over 150mph. It would cost you about £12,000 and several hours of careful assembly work.

Now the world of this and other customised cars is facing its biggest upheaval since the recession as new safety regulations come into force. Until now, most of these often eccentric vehicles needed no more than a standard MoT test before being allowed on the road. From July 1, however, all amateur-built and kit cars must undergo a £200 safety check before they can be registered for use.

The Kamala is produced by D.J. Sportscars of Harlow, Essex, which, like most kit car-makers, is keen to embrace the safety rules. The car was designed by former Ford engineer, Peter Walker, who wanted to "produce something strikingly different". The project took four years from the first sketches to production last year and so far five have been made.

While it may seem astonishing that sometimes powerful machines have been allowed on the public highway without facing any safety checks, it is probably not belated common sense alone that has dictated the move. For the new regulation comes into force just five months before similar rules are to be applied throughout the European Community.

The new safety check, known as Single Vehicle Approval, will also apply to cars imported to Britain which are less than three years old and therefore do not have to undergo an MoT test.

The checks will be "far more rigorous than an MoT", according to a Department of Transport spokesman, and include inspections of steering, doors and latches, exhaust and smoke emissions, lamps and lights, mirrors, anti-theft devices, seats and seatbelts, brakes, silencers, glass, tyres, interior fittings, bumpers, speedometers, demisters and wipers, as well as the vehicle's general design, weight and construction.

John Bowis, the Road Safety Minister, who announced the details just before Christmas, said: "The scheme will bring personally imported, amateur-built and kit car vehicles generally into line with mass-produced vehicles in meeting the high standards we expect, without placing an undue burden on individuals and small businesses."

The scheme has been greeted with enthusiasm by most in the industry, not least because companies producing the kits will also be allowed for the first time to sell up to 50 fully-assembled vehicles a year. Until now, manufacturers have been allowed to sell a maximum of just nine fully-built cars, all of which had to be ex-demonstration models.

The new system is also seen as giving the kit car industry official recognition by acknowledging that vehicles passing the checks are roadworthy. "The industry can see the benefits," says Ian Stent, Editor of *Which Kit?* magazine. "It has emerged from the recession leaner, but fitter. You rarely see kit cars on the market now which are not pretty good quality."

Until the new rules come into force, there are two types of vehicle approval, both prohibitively expensive for small-scale manufacturers. The first is full EU-type approval which all mass car manufacturers' vehicles must undergo, and the second is a low-volume type designed for specialist marques producing fewer than 500 cars a year.

Mark Wooldridge of the Association of Specialist Car Manufacturers, says: "The SVA will make it far more difficult for shoddy cars to get on the road and this will give us a seal of approval." Wooldridge, who produces Quantum kit cars from his base in Birmingham, has already had his vehicles looked at. "We failed on a couple of minor things, such as hood catches which were slightly too sharp, and the exhaust, which had a sharp edge and was deemed to have been able to injure someone in an accident, but to put these things right only cost me £20-£25 per car.

"What has amazed me is that the people drafting the legislation have asked us what we think. It has been very good, commonsense stuff."

John Hoyle of NG Cars at Epsom, which makes kits of traditional-style cars "looking a little like a Morgan", is also upbeat about the new rules. "I originally thought it would spoil the look of the car but once you go into it there are solutions," he said. "It will put no more than 5 per cent on the cost of our cars, which sell at between £13,000 and £20,000.".

While there are about 250 kit car models in Britain, made by around 150 companies, only 60 or so manufacturers produce more than 20 cars a year from dedicated premises and only four or five make over 150 a year. Nonetheless, interest is high, with 42,000 people visiting the National Kit Car Show last May.

So is SVA good news all round? "The sad thing is it will knock out the real extroverts producing weird and wonderful cars in their garages," says Stent.

Peter Filby, publisher and chairman of *Which Kit?* magazine, adds: "We British are very inventive and really started the kit car industry, though America was very close behind. There are thousands of men out there who want nothing more than to make their own motor car."

Why be boring when you can be seen in something Special?

With its huge front wings, roll cage, on-board fire extinguisher and low-slung stance, Colin Thompson's single-seat racer bears all the hallmarks of a Damon Hill-style Formula One machine, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

The difference is that while the Thompson Special cost £4,000 all-in, a Formula One engine costs around £100,000, a set of brake discs and pads £7,000 and a chassis £500,000.

More Heath Robinson than hi-tech, Colin spent £450 on a very second-hand 2.3-litre Ford Granada estate as the "heart" of his racer, and took two-and-a-half years to build it, with the £4,000 budget including a second, more powerful 2.8-litre engine.

The Thompson Special proves that in a world of carbon-copy, safe and comfortable, but yawningly tedious modern cars, the home-grown machine is thriving as motorists, frustrated trying to buy the car they want off the shelf, build their own instead.

The Thompson Special is fully taxed, MoT'd, and insured. With headlights, indicators and number plates, it is fully road as well as race legal, which means its proud owner can drive it to a circuit, race, and then drive home again.

Thompson, 39, a former technician with Racal, built the car himself at home in New Malden, Surrey. The road to the Special started when he began a course learning how to race single-seater cars, and was bitten by the single-seater bug.

The trouble was, he could either go on taking lessons,

Continued on page 3

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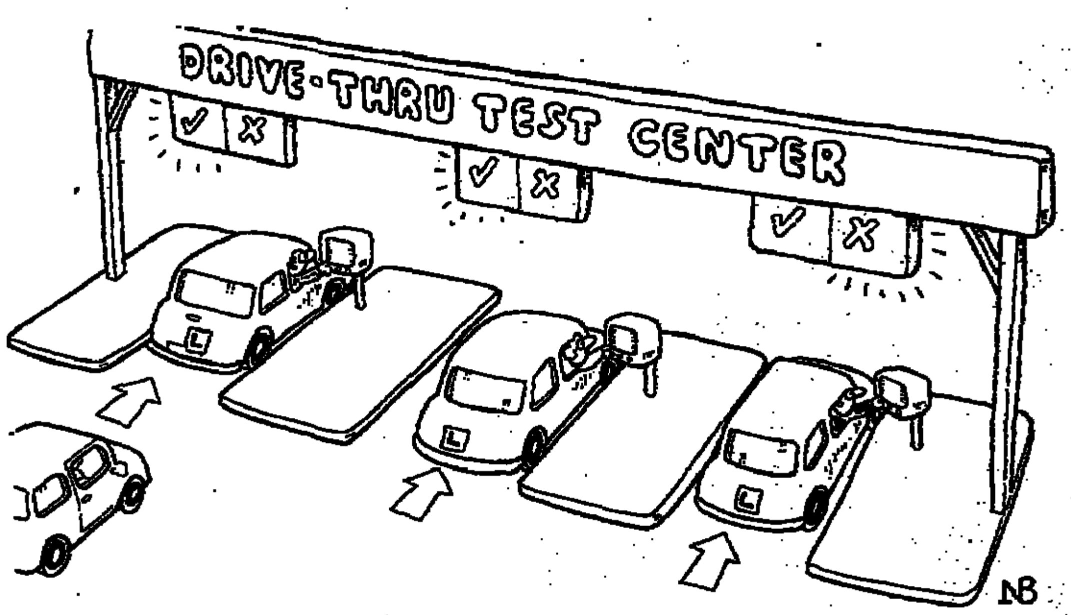
Complaints from driving schools about reforms to the way learners are tested suggest there is still plenty of scope for improvement

It's time the test was privatised

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard



A new driving test was introduced in July last year and six months later, on January 1 this year, a number of important changes were made to it. There is nothing wrong with revising a scheme, indeed fine tuning was bound to be needed, but I am mystified as to why the test methodology remains rooted in the era of the Model T (not that you *had to pass a test then*).

In *Car 97* last week, several driving schools which run intensive courses complained about one change, which involves the need to take a theory test before drivers can book, let alone take, a practical. This knocks seven bells out of intensive courses, which are predicated on getting through the whole gruesome learning-testing process in a week. I sympathise with the instructors, but their problems are not the only reason why changes ought to be made.

The theory test should be taken on a computer screen. Even computer-illiterate people could handle sitting in front of a terminal clicking on the answers in a multiple-choice test, and the result would be available immediately.

There are two reasons why the present test is conducted with pen and paper and then taken away for marking. One is the cost of installing computers; the other is the legal requirement that the driving test be "equally accessible to all candidates". Of course, there are people, especially elderly people, who are intimidated by computers. But because some people have to take the test on paper does not mean everyone has to: a combination of methods can be used. That leaves the cost argument, though I doubt whether putting a basic computer in every test centre would cost any more than employing an army of people to print, distribute and mark test papers.

Still, let us suppose that cost is a real problem. There is plenty of money and plenty of sophisticated technology in industry, so the answer is to privatise the driving test. Now get up off the floor and listen to the logic.

The test is already half privatised. Although it is administered by the Driving Standards Agency, the day to day running of the test was put out to tender and DriveSafe Services Ltd won the contract. There is no reason why the DSA should not continue to have a regulatory role, with the private sector running the tests and putting up the money in exchange for potential profits.

Organisations like the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the AA and the RAC — as well as DriveSafe — could be encouraged to form consortia to bid for the test. I see no reason why leading driving schools should not join these consortia: the argument that they have a pecuniary interest in test results is made irrelevant by the fact that failing candidates is bad for their reputations.

There are those within the DSA who think that unless they get on with a more technological approach, the pressure to privatise will increase. This is why I fully expect the theory test to be conducted on computer screens within five years. But a change of government is only five months away and Tony Blair will quickly face the fact that promises cost money.

The privatisation of the driving test by a Labour government would be among the greatest ironies, a Thatcherite principle given its ultimate expression. But I would not bet against it happening and I hope that it does.

■ Alan Copps and myself will shortly force ourselves to eat a decent lunch for once while we pore over your hundreds of entries for the competition to give the Ford Ka a decent nickname. The champagne winner will be announced in a week or two. Meanwhile, my thanks to the ten people from my eldest daughter's office who submitted suggestions, knowing of course that *I would never live* down allowing them into the competition proper. I expect my daughter suggested Ford *Katastrophe because she drives a* Vauxhall, but Laurie Stewart's Ford Karma has a nice ring to it.

PETER TRIEVNOR

New regulations for the caravan towing test are complicated, but the Caravan Club can offer newcomers expert advice on safety measures and how to avoid the pitfalls

Before we start, who are you?

Alan Copps and Eve-Ann Prentice

on beating the driving test cheats and learning to tow your caravan in safety

Candidates for both the theory and the *practical driving* tests will have to provide photographic proof of their identity from March 1 in *an attempt to stamp* out cheating.

The Driving Standards Authority, which administers the tests, is concerned that in some parts of the country candidates are sending along older relatives or more experienced drivers to take the test in their place and ensure a pass.

The new rule will be announced within the next few weeks, *Car 97* has been told.

A number of prosecutions have been brought against people for impersonating candidates. Inquiries have established *that the practice is more* prevalent in certain parts of Britain, mainly inner-city areas. Examiners have been trained to spot tell-tale signs, such as middle-aged people apparently taking the test for the first time.

The acceptable forms of photographic proof are expected to include passports and employee identity cards.

The move follows a series of revisions to the driving tests for cars, motorcycles and heavier vehicles which came into force on January 1. The DSA has been criticised for not publicising these changes sufficiently. The main change means that candidates for all forms of driving licence must now pass a theory test before they can apply for a practical test.

The new driving test rules have also focused attention on *the growing number of* courses to help those baffled or intimidated by the changes. Some of the latest are aimed at caravan-owners and prospective car drivers who may need special help to get through the theory test.

Learner car drivers and motorcyclists who are worried about the theory test can now take special courses at Theory Learning Centres which are being set up around the country. The centres, the brainchild of Jon Gross, a former development manager of the Motor Schools' Association, offer an unusual "guaranteed pass" policy. If any new driver fails the theory test after taking the course, he or she can return for as many free lessons as it takes them to pass. A complete course of twenty 45-minute lessons costs £120. For information telephone 0121-244 0442.

The new caravan rules are complicated. Li*cence-holders who* passed their driving tests before January 1 are not affected, but anyone learning now needs to pass a towing test if the weight of their vehicle and trailer or caravan combination is more than 3,500kg. People who want to tow less than that combined weight need not take the towing test, provided the trailer does not weigh more fully laden than the empty towing vehicle.

The towing test involves a simple reverse S manoeuvre similar to that taken by large goods vehicle drivers, and a hitching and unhitching test. The Caravan Club is running a series of courses that begin in March and caravans are provided. "All the participants have to provide is a car fitted with towing bracket and electrics, plus extension mirrors if the existing car mirrors will not give an adequate rear view down the sides of the caravan," says a spokesman.

The one-and-a-half day practical caravanning course for "the less experienced" costs £55 and a one-day manoeuvring course for those with "manoeuvring difficulties only" is £45. For more information contact the Caravan Club's Events department on 01342 326944.

More advice for caravanners will be available at the Caravan Leisure Home Show at Manchester's G-Mex centre from next Thursday to Sunday. Officials from the Caravan Club, Greater Manchester Police and the RAC will be on hand to give information about the new test requirements, the best tow cars and safety and security.

Unsuitable tow cars, poor loading of caravans and insufficient attention to mirrors when towing are among the *faults blamed by police* for accidents involving caravans. Although towing a caravan for the first time can be daunting for many drivers, the Caravan Council says many pitfalls can be overcome through following a few simple rules.

First, it is important to match your car to the weight of the caravan, which for the less-experienced should not exceed 85 per cent of the car's kerbside weight. However, engine capacity and gearing are also crucial and this is one reason why expert advice should be sought. The noseweight of the caravan also needs to be checked against the recommended noseweight for the tow car.

In loading it is important to keep the weight in the caravan low down and as close to the axle as possible. Emptying water tanks and toilets helps reduce weight. The alignment of car and caravan is also vital. They should be level when viewed from the side. Mirrors should be set wide enough to see right down the sides of the caravan and, if they fail this test, extension mirrors should be fitted before setting off.

Box Office for Caravan Show: 0171-373 3733.

Drivers fail the pressure test

When low inflation can cause disaster

MILLIONS of motorists are running an unnecessary risk of an accident this winter through poorly inflated tyres, according to a survey of more than 2,000 cars, *writes Alan Copps.*

Nine out of ten cars inspected were found to have at least one tyre wrongly inflated and 14 per cent of those were so badly wrong as to jeopardise *handling and control. If the* sample was representative of the 22 million car population, that means three million drivers are running around on potentially lethal wheels, says the RAC.

The most alarming conclusion of the survey was that almost a third of motorists never check their tyre pressures. The Association of Chief Police Officers, which has joined the Tread Safely campaign, points out that driving with defective tyres is an offence leading to a possible £2,500 fine.

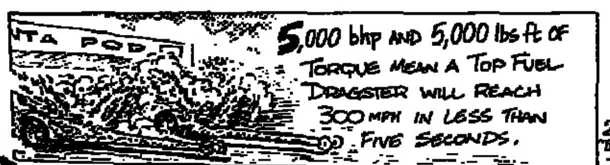
The survey was carried out for the National Tyre Distributors' Association, which is offering a free inflation service and tyre pressure advice at all its 2,800 member centres across the country. Half *those asked said they knew* the recommended pressures, but only one in four said they checked them weekly, which is regarded as a safe minimum.

Edmund King, head of campaigns for the RAC, said: "Tyres must not be forgotten simply because they do not trigger warning lights in the dashboard. They are the only contact a car has with the road."

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

FOR A RACE IN 1902 CHARLES JARROT REPAIRED HIS CAR USING BITS OF AN HOTEL BEDSIDE-TABLE WHICH HE HAD SMUGGLED OUT IN HIS TROUSERS...

WITH 1,500,000 CARS RUNNING ROUND LONDON DAILY VAUXHALL CROSS IS RECKONED TO BE THE BUSIEST ROAD JUNCTION IN EUROPE...



5,000 bhp AND 5,000 lbs ft OF TORQUE MEAN A TOP FUEL DRAGSTER WILL REACH 300 MPH IN LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS.

THE HIGHEST PRICE PAID EVER FOR CORGI'S VERSION OF THE JAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DB5 IS £1,300

●LONDON
A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road) over the Lea Valley Viaduct.
A3 Kingston. *Northbound* lane closure on the Kingston bypass between Shannon Corner (A298) and Coombe Lane Junction (A238) for work on Carters Bridge.
M1 Hendon area. *Major* roadworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or *from the A1 Great North Way.*
A504 Hendon area. Roadworks on Hendon Lane, with no access from the A504 Finchley Lane or the A1 Great North Way.
A232 Wallington. Roadworks on Croydon Road around the junction with *Manor Road.*

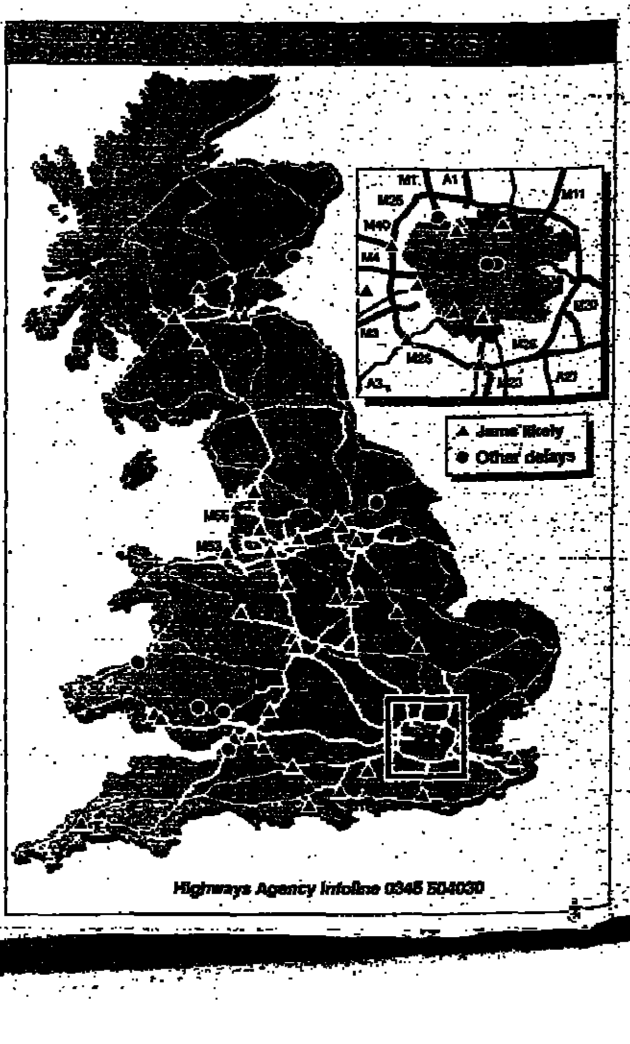
● SOUTH-EAST
A330 Ascot, Berkshire. Roadworks to widen the road and make a new roundabout. Temporary lights in place.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a *contraflow between junc*tion 1a (M25) and junction 3 (Wycombe East).
A27 Brighton. Overnight (10pm-6am) maintenance work on the Brighton bypass between the Hangleton Junction and Ditchling Road Bridge.
M27 *Hampshire. Long-term* roadworks with lane closures and a contraflow at times between junction 8 (Southampton) and junction 10 (Fareham).
A2 Canterbury. Roadworks and various lane closures in both directions for bridge *maintenance.*
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Godstone and the A3 as major widening work continues.

● SOUTH-WEST
A35 Christchurch, Dorset Bypass. Lane closure between *Fountain Way and Stony* Lane roundabout.
M32 Gloucestershire. Long-term roadworks with southbound contraflow at peak times between junction 1 (Bristol Ring Road, Hambrook) and junction 2 (Stapleton).
M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at the roundabout junction with the A419. Also contraflow in operation across the Avonmouth Bridge.
M5 Somerset. One lane closed northbound for communications work.
A46 north of Bath, Somerset. Reduced to one lane both ways at Treetops, between Bath and the A420.
A338 Salisbury, Wiltshire area. Lane closures both ways on New Bridge Road at Hamham.
A1 Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. Reduced to one lane northbound during maintenance work at Alconbury Hills (A14/A604), as is the A14.
A6 Lockington, Leicester*shire. Major roadworks and a* contraflow, with only one lane each way.
A14 Nottingham. Off-peak (9.30am-4pm) roadworks and lane closures in both directions between the Railway Station and Broad Street.
A500 Staffordshire, Stoke area. *Contraflow with only one* lane open each way between Talke (A34) and Longport (A527 Porthill).
M5 West Midlands. Major roadworks at junction 2 Dudley (A4034/A4123 Oldbury) closing southbound entry and northbound exit slip roads.

● NORTH
M6 Cheshire. One lane closed each way over the Thelwall Viaduct.
M6 *Greater Manchester.* Bridge maintenance work between junctions 25 (Wigan) and 27 (Standish) with a 50mph limit.
M53 *Merseyside. Bridge* maintenance work at junction 2 (Birkenhead) with only one lane open each way on the Moreton Spur.
M1 West Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions. *Delays on the M1,* M621 and Dewsbury Road.

● WALES
A482 Aberaeron, Ceredigion. *Upper Aberaeron* Bridge on South Road is closed for reconstruction work.
A470 north of Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil. Temporary lights on Brecon Road for major works; 40mph limit on A465 at Cefn Coed.
A465 Port Talbot, north of Neath. *Contraflow between* Aberdulais (A4230) and Neath (A474).
M4 Swansea. Carriageway reduced to one lane in both directions for roadworks between Swansea and Llanelli.
A472 Pontypool, Torfaen. Contraflow between *Pontymoile and the Heron* Roundabout.

● SCOTLAND
A937 Montrose, Angus. Roadworks and restrictions in both directions on Hillside.
M8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout at Junction 2 (Newbridge Spur, *M9*).
M8 *Glasgow. Overnight* (8pm-6am) eastbound entry slip roads closed for roadworks at Charing Cross and Great Western Road.
A92 Tay Road Bridge, Dundee. Maintenance work in place at the bridges. Also lane closures southbound.
A9 Greenloaning, Perth & Kinross. Contraflow four miles east of Dunblane.



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

هكذا من الأصل

Opera star Della Jones tells **Alasdair Steven** about her quest to discover a very rare and elusive animal

Has anyone seen a Qwunkalumpas?

STEERING COLUMN

If you have heard a rather fine soprano trilling in the car next to you when you pulled up at traffic lights recently, it could have been Della Jones. She likes to practise at the wheel for her lead role in Rossini's *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, which opens tonight at the Coliseum in London.

In reality, she is a girl who is proud of her Welsh origins and has made it to the top of the international operatic tree. She has sung the most demanding mezzo-soprano roles in the world's leading opera houses as well as "doing" the Last Night of the Proms in 1993 and making many records. After studying at the Royal College of Music, she won, among other prizes, the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship.

She has sung with all the UK opera companies, especially Welsh National and English National. She sang the demanding role of Baba The Turk in the acclaimed Welsh National production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, which was brought triumphantly last year to Covent Garden. She has often appeared at the Geneva Opera House and "the gorgeous" La Fenice in Venice. She continues a hectic concert and recital schedule. Tonight's English National Opera production of the *The Italian Girl in Algiers* by Howard Davies presents her with a hugely demanding role but one she knows well, having sung it at Nantes two years ago.

How did you first learn to drive?

In a square yellow thing. I think it was called a Hillman Minx. I learnt on an automatic and have always driven an automatic. I soon realised after becoming an opera singer that rehearsal rooms and theatres are far apart. I was rehearsing *Carmen* for the ENO and that involved several changes of tubes etc. So I gritted my teeth and passed the test first time. I was fearless then. Hyde Park Corner and the like never worried me. High streets with drivers trying to find a parking place are more of a trial.

What was your first car?

An Austin Maestro. I was doing Opera North, WNO and ENO all at once, so I had to learn the motorways of Britain fast. But everything that could go wrong with that car — it was new — went wrong. It broke down everywhere. Eventually I had a wonderful relationship with a Mike Capon in British Leyland's complaints office. I rang up reversed charges and told him where I was and he sent out a mechanic. This went on for six months. It broke down for good in Swansea and BL offered me either my money back or a new car.

What car do you drive now?

We have two, a Volvo Estate and Citroën BX. My husband is a sound recordist, so we choose whichever is the most suitable for the day. The Citroën is always full of clutter. Mostly my seven-year-old's.

Do you enjoy driving?

I love it. I put on Radio 4 and listen away. With that I can cope with traffic jams, snarl-ups and motorway gridlocks no trouble at all.

What is your dream car?

Bright egg yolk colour. Any make. But it has to have wings; when I drive my son to school we pretend the car has wings so that he isn't late. I confess that stretch limos are quite fun in the States, but I wouldn't pay for them every day of the year.

What is your most hated car?

One that breaks down.

What is your worst habit in a car?

Singing. Loudly. I do occasionally shout at other drivers, but I love sitting there making up cadenzas for a Handel or Rossini aria. Other drivers at traffic lights often look amazed, but I carry on.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

That they exist. Drivers who hog your backside and flash on a motorway. Then there's the awful bunch who delight in coming up really close on an open but twisty road and, because they know the road, flash their lights and honk their horn.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in a car?

The soprano Valerie Masterson and I were being driven to a concert in Spain and got caught up in the most horrendous traffic jam. We had to change into our party frocks in the back of the car. We gave strict instructions to the taxi driver to keep his eyes to the front. We arrived on time and looking great. My son and I often go out for drives in search of the Qwunkalumpas, a rare breed of animal which no one else has heard of. We are the only people who know about them or can see them! It's also our word and no one else has heard about this rare breed. We can be driving along and he will suddenly shout "Mummy, there's a Qwunkalumpas!". So I stop and we rush off. We do our searching on traffic free roads!

Have you any points on your licence?

No. I am a good girl, I am.

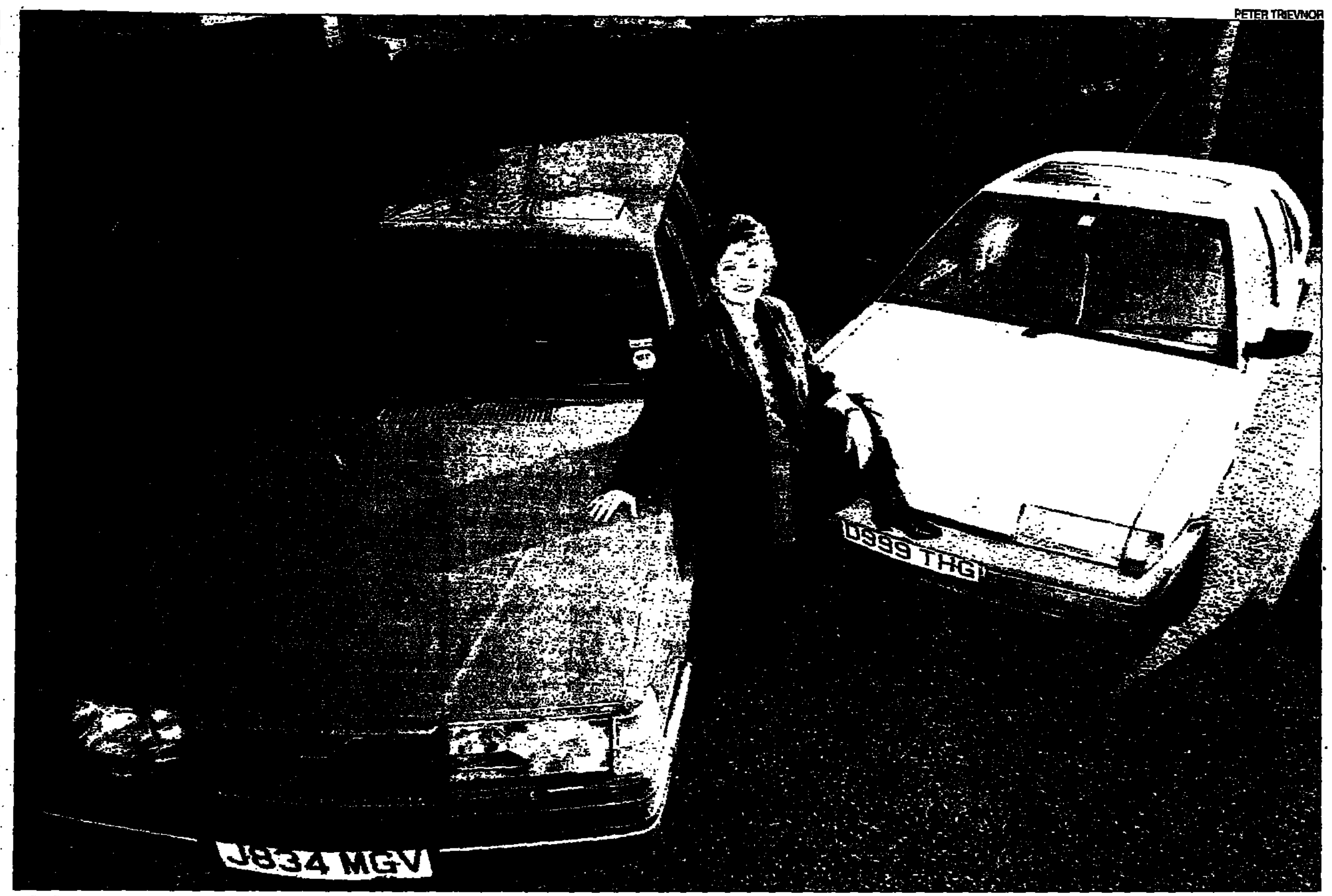
What do you listen to on your car radio/cassette while driving?

I am hooked on Radio 4, as I said. The rule in this house is that the dial must remain on Radio 4. If I am driving home after a concert or performance. I listen to the World Service, which I always try to catch when I am abroad.

What is your worst/favourite car advertisement?

Never look or listen to them. I can't even think of one. I'm just not that interested.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Della Jones: "I occasionally shout at other drivers, but I love sitting there making up cadenzas for a Handel or Rossini aria. Other drivers at traffic lights look amazed, but I carry on"

An ace Blackjack from a Citroën 2CV

Continued from page 1

and run out of money without any promise of winning a drive in someone else's car at the end of it all, or cut the lessons short and instead build his own single-seater to practise in.

"I had about £1,300 to spare when I started," he says. "I spent £450 on a 2.3-litre Granada Estate." The bills mounted though, as £500 went on building the steel chassis and aluminium body panels, and £1,700 on "bits and pieces". The only part of the car Thompson could not make was the roll frame which had to be made to race specification.

The Thompson Special will reach a top 124mph, and has a 0-60mph time of well under six seconds, depending on gearing. Thompson says: "It has a four speed gearbox, and to change the gearing I use bigger rear wheels on racing circuits for a higher top speed, and smaller rear wheels on hill climbs to improve the acceleration."

If the car is fun on the road, it is positively exhilirating on the track: "I have driven it a number of times at Goodwood, and had my trickiest moment just after I had put in the 2.8-litre engine. I was going through the curve where Stirling Moss had his big accident and I was doing about 115mph when suddenly the back started to weave around. When you lose control at 115mph for the first time, I can tell you it is quite exhilirating."

We might not be thrilled by such a "moment", but perhaps the problem with so many new cars is that all too often the car that suits is not always one that excites. Which is why the bright yellow lightweight three-wheeler from Cornwall-based car designer Richard Oakes, stirs such interest. It does not have to be speed that thrills.

The Oakes Blackjack Avion cycle-car harks back in looks to the days of winding, empty country lanes, when hedges and haywains rather than articulated trucks were the driver's companion. Reminiscent of pre-war cars such as the three-wheeler Morgan, it is based around, of all things, the wheezing innards of the Citroën 2CV, all 602cc and 30bhp of it.

With a powerplant more Jane than Tarzan, no roof, an air deflector rather than a full windscreen, three wheels instead of four, and room only for two, the Blackjack is a long way from the cossetting modern saloon.

Richard Oakes, who studied at the Royal College of Art and worked for Ford, is an independent automotive designer who has worked with small independent car makers as well as established names like Aston Martin.

"The Blackjack is built around the 2CV, which is not a very fast car, but the Blackjack is much lighter than the original Citroën, and people feel very warmly towards the 2CV," he says.

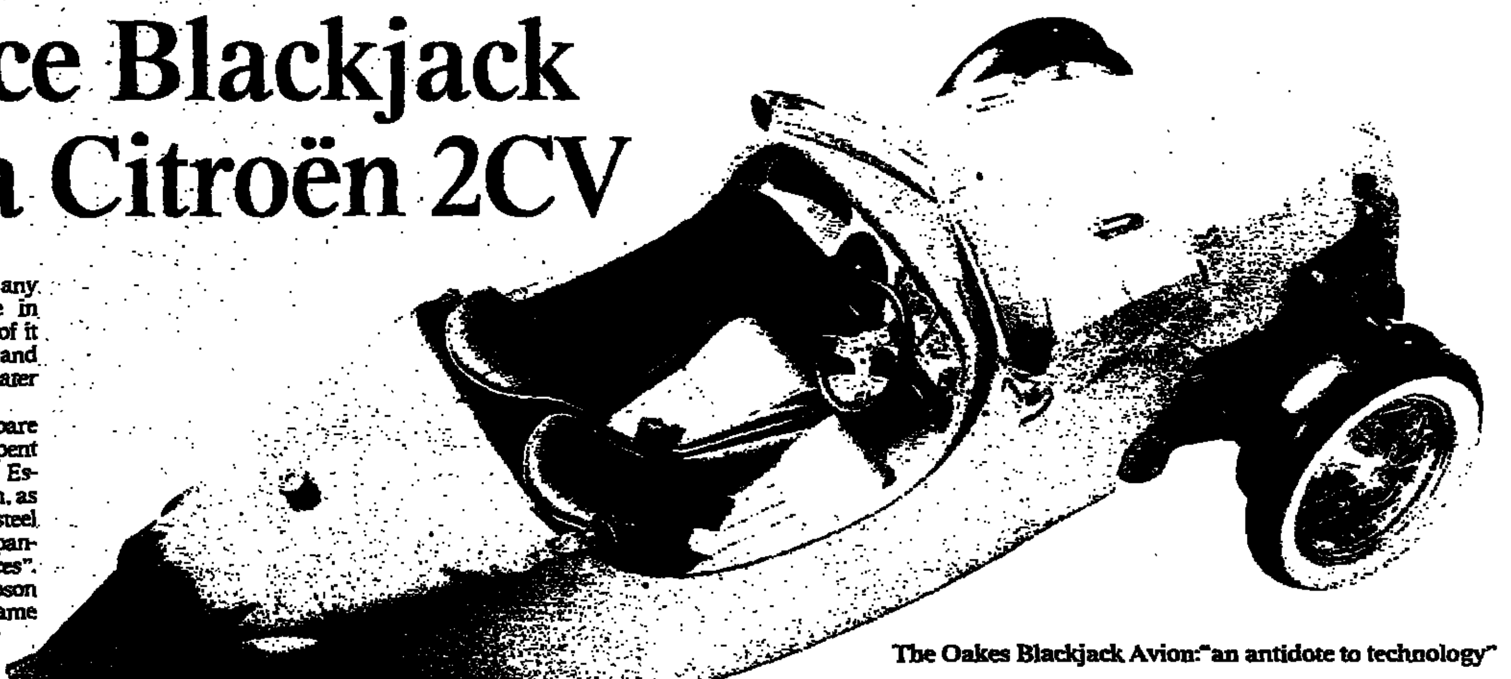
"This is not an out and out sports car. It is a 'country lane' car, a low-tech alternative for people looking for an antidote to technology. It nips along, it works very well, is quite charming, and quality engineering has gone into it."

Oakes believes that interest in such cars stems from the need to find motoring fun: "I am nearly 50 years old, and 20 years ago would have classed myself as a car nut. Then at least the roads were full of interesting cars. Today, those cars that are interesting are either very expensive, or are older cars and bring with them all the problems of restoration."

The Blackjack is his alternative. Customers need to find a donor 2CV — an MOT failure, which can be bought for as little as £100, is fine, as the chassis is not needed. The engine, steering, brakes and front suspension are the key elements.

These are married to the Blackjack Avion kits, available from the most basic £875 pack, right up to the luxury £4,500 package which includes everything from subframes and moulded bodywork to handbuilt steel wheels and hand-stitched leather interior.

Oakes says: "Building one requires no specialist knowledge of wiring or of welding. People want different things, but we calculate it should take only three or four weekends to put a car together."



The Oakes Blackjack Avion: "an antidote to technology"

Thomson in his Special: fun on the road, exhilirating on the track

FIFTY YEARS OF MAKING KIT CARS

- THE KIT car is deemed by enthusiasts to be 50 years old this year, half as old as the motor car itself. In 1947, Derek Buckler took the first steps in making his own car by making a space frame chassis and began production a year or so later.
- ABOUT 5,000 kit cars, worth on average £5,000 to £6,000 each, are now made in Britain every year, of which 20 per cent are exported.
- PROBABLY the most famous and widely sold kit car was the Lotus 7. Created by the company's founder, Colin Chapman, in 1957, it has been produced in one form or another ever since. The manufacturing rights are now held by Caterham, who sponsor race series for the car in five countries.
- ONE main exporter is the Lomax Motor Company based in Halesowen, West Midlands, which sells 15 to 20 of its three-wheeler kit cars abroad every month. The models, costing £3,000-£5,000, are popular in France, Belgium and Holland.
- THE Association of Specialist Car Manufacturers is an umbrella organisation of some of the main kit car-makers. For more information, contact association members Mark Wooldridge on 01384 834422 or Peter Bailey on 01308 897072.
- *WHICH KIT?* magazine can be contacted on 01737 222030.
- THE NEW safety checks for kit and amateur-built cars will be "far more rigorous than an MoT", according to the Department of Transport.
- ABOUT 150 companies make kit cars in Britain, but only 60 or so produce more than 20 cars a year from dedicated premises and only four or five make over 150 cars a year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe gears up

CAR SALES increased in every country in Western Europe in 1996, according to provisional figures. The biggest increases were in two of the smallest countries — Norway, up 38 per cent, and Ireland, up 32 per cent. The average increase was 6.6 per cent. The smallest increases were in Italy, just 0.3 per cent, Switzerland, up 2.5 per cent, and Britain, where sales of 2,025,500 represented a 4.1 per cent gain.

Through a glass darkly

DRIVERS who don't wear their glasses behind the wheel either through vanity or forgetfulness could put other road users at risk, says the AA. A study of 6,000 motorists found that of those needing glasses only 16 per cent of men wore them compared to 23 per cent of women. It is estimated that one in four drivers need glasses. "Sharp vision is essential to road safety, particularly during winter when poor weather and low light can lead to eye strain," said Andrew Howard, AA head of road safety.

Multi-coloured Lexus

CUSTOMERS for Lexus, the luxury cars made by Toyota, have persuaded the company to change its policy on colours and trim. They can now have any combination of exterior and interior colour rather than the limited choices previously on offer. The company says cars will be built to individual order. The most popular exterior colours in 1996 were Aspen Green and Cashmere Gold.

Marcos I up for sale

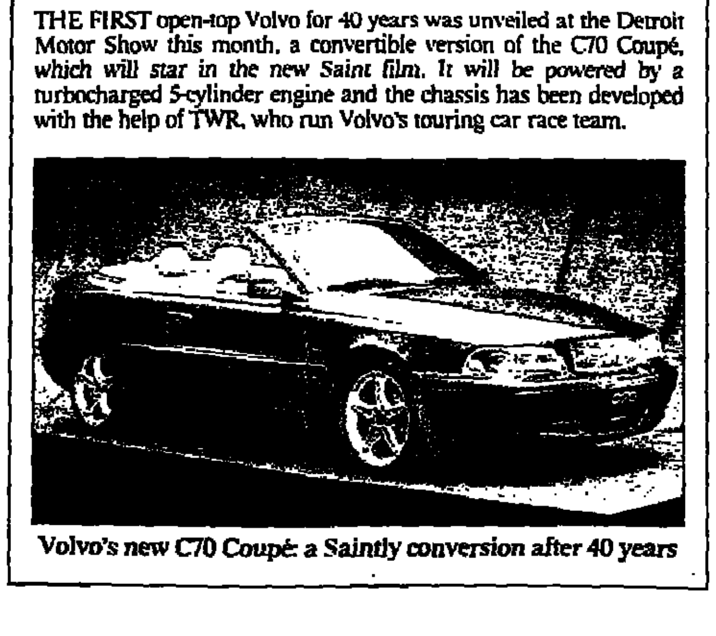
THE FIRST Marcos ever built, commisioned in 1959 for Jackie Stewart, is to be sold by Brooks at its sale of collectors' cars and automobilia at London's Olympia on February 22. It was restored by the company's founder, Jem Marsh, in 1976 and raced succesfully in historic events for many years.

AA backs MP on bull bars

BULL BARS should be banned, said the AA as it gave a welcome to the Ten Minute rule Bill to outlaw the notorious accesories for off-roaders, introduced by Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, in the Commons on Tuesday. Latest figures from the Transport Research Laboratory suggest that estimates of deaths due to bull bars have been overstated in the past and they can only be blamed with certainty for about three fatalities and 40 injuries a year. "That's still three deaths too many," said the AA.

Volvo raises the roof

THE FIRST open-top Volvo for 40 years was unveiled at the Detroit Motor Show this month, a convertible version of the C70 Coupé, which will star in the new Saint film. It will be powered by a turbocharged 5-cylinder engine and the chassis has been developed with the help of TWR, who run Volvo's touring car race team.



Volvo's new C70 Coupé: a Saintly conversion after 40 years

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94L S2 EST ★★	49T	£23,750	94L 100 2.6 SE EST AUTO ★★	40T	£13,900
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93L V8 4.2 quattro AUTO ★★★★★	35T	£19,000	95M 80 E SPORT ★★	13T	£12,850
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هكذا من الأصل

Helen Mound learns some tricks of the trade from a company that offers any colour — and 500 shades of black

The complex art of painting your wagon

JOHN POTTER

Colour me incompetent: Helen Mound, in compulsory full protective gear, starts on her ill-advised freehand attempt to reproduce Car 97 with stencil plastic and spray paint . . .

"Take me to your leader. I wish to learn to flip-flop. Then I will fade in, blend and fade out. Once I've mastered this, I'll try a full edge-to-edge respray."

PPG Industries, the largest car paint producer in the world, is accustomed to this curious request. It runs one of Britain's leading car painting schools, and flip-flop paint, fading, blending and edge-to-edge spraying are four of the techniques it teaches to car dealers' and garage bodyshops' paint technicians.

I might look like something from outer space in the full protective gear, which includes breathing equipment, but inside the PPG Auto Refinish Training Centre in Birmingham everyone dresses like this. The fumes alone could overpower you in the spray booth, and smoking or using a mobile phone is forbidden within 100 yards of the centre for fear of an explosion.

Most people think that car paint is black and white — plus a few other colours — but the technology has become so complex that the Refinish Centre provides 52 different courses, covering subjects from warranty repair to specialist techniques such as fade-in (where one colour blends to another without an obvious join).

Otherwise known as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, PPG Industries has been around for more than a century. Having started in plate glass in 1883 in the United States, it swiftly added automotive paints to its manufacturing abilities when the car industry took off 100 years ago. Today annual sales exceed $7 billion (£4.2 billion) and all the world's major car producers use the company's "automotive coatings technology", including Ford, Toyota, Rover, Fiat, Nissan, Saab, BMW and Daewoo.

The trains on London's Underground are finished in PPG's graffiti-resistant paint, and when the Shuttle was pulled out from the Channel tunnel after the fire last year, PPG's heat-resistant paint was still intact while everything else was singed.

But PPG's main business is in the automotive industry and it has developed a close link between original paints for car factories and refinish products for bodyshops. The company understands the problems involved in paint repairs outside a factory environment, reproducing complicated colours in bodyshops and repairing complex finishes, which is why it opened the Refinish Training Centre.

. . . only to be told by Bob Magee, left, that "letters and figures are the hardest to reproduce and should only really be tackled after a lot of practice"

The man in charge of the operation is Bob Magee, otherwise known as the Pearly King "for the colours I can create with pearl paints that most people think are impossible".

Magee has been in car paints for 30 years, and knows how to make a new car design look its best using colour and how to get the best colours out of new paint technology. When the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders commissioned its "Concept Car 2096" for last year's Motor Show, Magee was asked to "finish it in something that didn't look like paint".

With the help of three other paint technicians, he completed the task in three days. The result was a glass-looking finish hailed by the industry as an impressive success.

Mixing paints and experimenting with colours is Magee's favourite part of his job, and he spent a day teaching me the tricks of the trade.

Paints currently fall into four basic categories; metallics (using flecks of aluminium that can vary in size and colour); micas (also known as pearls, using transparent spheres that vary in size and colour); lenticulars (similar to micas, but the particles are oval-shaped to create greater reflections, which result in brighter colours); and good old-fashioned flats (that benefit from ever-improving pigments to produce brighter yellows and reds.

Flip-flop — also known as "three-stage pearls" — is a name for a technique using mica paints. First a basic colour is applied, then a mica to provide a pearlescent effect, and then a coloured glaze. The flip is the light effect and the flop is the shade or colour. More mica gives more flip, more colour gives more flop. Simple, when you know how.

> The fumes alone could overpower you in the booth

No paint is financially viable unless the desired result can be achieved in two or three coats. My own creation would prove costly on the production line. With a mix of sunburst orange, flame red and light yellow pearl, I'd made a paint that looked absolutely wonderful in the tin, but provided very little coverage and needed to be applied to my door panel six times before it would work.

Magee advised that to get the finished result I was aiming for I should have applied a coat of orange first for good coverage, then my colour for the effect and, finally, glaze to increase the pearl-look. Years of experience have taught him how to identify the paint needed to flatter the lines of a car. He tells me how my pearlescent paint would look dull on a Rover Metro, but bright if applied to a Volkswagen Beetle because of its curved shape.

The practical side of my day's course was fun, but difficult. A steady hand is needed to apply the paint evenly with a spray gun 6ins from the door panel, which I didn't find a problem. But it all went horribly wrong when I attempted some freehand work. I'm clearly not a natural with a spray gun, so I went for what I thought was the simple approach, cutting the figures "Car 97" out of some stencil plastic.

Somehow I don't think it will make it as this year's logo. Magee pointed out, after I'd spent two painstaking hours painting the stencil, that "letters and figures are the hardest to reproduce and should only really be tackled after a lot of practice".

The centre trains 900 students a year from paint distributors, car dealerships and bodyshops. Courses cost £100 a day. And if you still think that car paint technology is all black and white, consider the fact that PPG now has 500 different versions of black on its palette.

YOUR CAR'S COLOUR CAN FADE

Out of fashion and in the red

Buying a car in a trendy colour could be expensive You might love the popular vivid greens, sparkling yellows or violent purples now, but don't be fooled into thinking they will always be appealing, *writes Helen Mound.*

Manufacturers are striving to offer ever more attractive colours, but customers are discovering that choosing the wrong one can be a costly mistake. Dealers say that motorists looking for trade-ins on their cars in fashionable colours usually get lower deals. An Apricot Volkswagen Polo or Exploit Yellow Fiat Punto can lose as much as £400 compared to the second-hand prices of more sober-coloured models.

Executives who pick Turquoise for their Jaguar XJR are likely to be penalised by a trade-in £1,000 less than those with dark metallic paintwork. A BMW in a non-metallic colour can lose between £300 and £400 in value, and Land Rovers in anything other than dark blues and earthy metallics can depreciate as much as an extra £1,000. One dealer would even avoid taking a Range Rover in Sahara Desert (bright metallic gold) as a trade-in. Despite being only a year since Land Rover dropped the colour from its range, he felt it would be hard to sell.

Garish colours are usually used to boost interest in slow sellers and new models. When Hyundai launched the Accent in the UK, it was offered in Scarlet Red (a vivid pink), but two years later Accents in that colour suffer greater depreciation than the more subtle shades.

Experts advise picking the colour that suits the car. Metallic blues or dark greens are considered appropriate for a BMW, metallic silver or blue for a Mercedes-Benz and Audi, and second-hand Ford Mondeos should preferably be in blue or red.

The current colour trend for mass-produced models is metallic blues, dark greens, burgundies and silvers. If you must pick a flat colour, red is the best seller, followed by blue.

Clearly the most cost-effective option you can pick for your new car is metallic paint, its positive effect on second-hand prices far outweighing that of options such as airbags and anti-lock brakes. Most manufacturers charge between £200 and £300 for metallic paint on a new car, but a second-hand car in metallic paint can fetch £500 more than an identical model in a flat colour.

SOME SHADES TO BE SEEN IN

●

RADIANT RED

●

ASH BLACK

●

SLATE BLUE

●

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- Ten colours that lose money: Ford Probe — Applemist; Volkswagen Polo — Apricot; Ford Mondeo — Si Citrine Yellow; Fiat Punto — Exploit Yellow; Seat Ibiza/Cordoba — Kiwi Yellow; Nissan Primera — Linden Green; Vauxhall Calibra — Pineapple Yellow; Range Rover — Sahara Desert; Hyundai Accent — Scarlet Red; Jaguar XJR — Turquoise.

A study in scarlet vision

DR DASHBOARD

Q **My husband and I are about to change our car and I know we will end up having the same old argument about its colour.**

A Well, it is usually imprudent to interfere between husband and wife . . . is there a serious point here?

Q **My husband is a bit of a fuddy-duddy and, like Henry Ford, thinks I should be happy with every colour available as long as it is black. I would like a cheerful red for a change. Isn't black harder to see on the road?**

A Actually, anecdotal evidence suggests that green cars are involved in more accidents than those of any other colour. But black is unlucky when it comes to theft.

Q **Really? You see, my husband is not as young as he was and I was more worried that he would not be seen as clearly as he might. I didn't realise that colour could affect theft.**

A It appears to. The chance of having your car stolen or broken into is 20 per cent greater if it is black, according to a survey by Admiral insurance. But that doesn't mean red is best for deterring the villains. Based on a survey of 10,000 claims, the findings showed that gold, yellow or brown cars are far less popular with thieves than other colours.

Q **I still want to go for red, as long is it is not a magnet for joy-riders or anything like that.**

A Admiral's marketing manager, Kate Armstrong says: "We had expected red to attract joy-riders, so were surprised to see it was less risky than black."

Q **So what about red being more easily seen? Any evidence to show that bright colours are safer?**

A What seems to be more important is how good your husband's eyesight is. The British Safety Council's reasearch shows that one in 14 older drivers have difficulty reading traffic signs.

هكذا من الأصل

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4.0 SPORT Auto (P) 3,000mls, carnival /oatmeal, CD, Jag phone £34,995. Sovereign 4.0 (95) 15K Ice/Nimbus £31,995. Longstone 0131 4440911

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XJS CONVERTABLE
5.3, F reg, 33,000m only, beautiful condition, Arctic Blue, AC, CD, must sell this week hence £9,950. Tel: 01622 820840.

XJS V12
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SOVEREIGN
4.0 auto. 1993 L reg. FLAMENCO / DOESKIN. FJSH, 66,000 miles. IMMACULATE. Warranty to 100,000 miles. £17,750. Tel: 01707 327051.

SOVEREIGN
94M, Red metallic, many extras, 1 owner, excellent, 48K £21,000ono. 01926 813356(business) 01926 817422 (home).

XJRS
Celebration model. 89/F, 50K only, FJSH, Artic blue / magnolia piped blue, superb example. £8,995 ono. Private sale. 0831 875875 0171 9372427.

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ALFA ROMEO
164 Sport Clover Leaf
1991. 26k mls. lthr. air con, man. V6, US spec. just serviced. 1 owner, excellent. £4495 0181 549 3936.

MAZDA
MX6 Coupe, 1990 auto, MOT Dec 97, American spec. red/ grey cloth, superb cond. £3,350ono. 0181 965 6110.

LINCOLN CONTINENTAL
4dr, new shape, 3.8 litre, auto, J reg, 65,000m, metallic Red, leather interior, superb. £7,250ono. Tel: 0181 983 0000.

MERCEDES
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FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

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RANGE ROVER (new shape) 2.5 diesel SE 95M, niagara/grey lthr full spec, 1 owner, FLRSH, as new, high mileage. Bargain at £26,995. 01734 886999T

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LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

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FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

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4WD Turbo
1995 N reg. 5 door hatch. Silver, air conditioning, roof rails, 6 x CD. 29,000 mls, FSH. £17,500. Tel: 0831 250590

MERCEDES 280GE
Long wheel base, automatic, Silver/Grey int, FMBSH, many new mechanicals, in excellent sound condition, inspection welcome. £7,350. 0171 4358545 or 0836 274956

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1.8iS, 1995 (M), Red, 10.5k, FSH, 1 owner. £15,500. Showing Sunday 26 Jan, 12-3pm, W. London. 0181 9609333

PORSCHE

968 SPORT
95 M. Black/Black leather, FSH, Sony CD, Club alloys, 6-speed gear box, electric sun roof, new tyres, 26k. 2 owners. £31,000. Private sale. Beaut. 95 M car. Tel: 01582 712924

911 CABRIOLET 96N [illegible] Red Met/Marble Leather, Air Con, 17" Wheels, 6,000 miles, P.O.A. Lancaster Bow/0181 983 4444. t

911 COUPE TIPTRONIC S 95N Iris Blue/Midnight Leather, Air Con, 17" Alloys, Cruise, 12,000 miles. £58,995 Lancaster Bow/0181 983 4444. t

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LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY
94M TDi ES auto, diesel, 24k, FLRSH 2 weeks ago, all available extras including 7 leather seats, twin sun roof, side/rear step, air con, CD. Black with beige interior. £21,000. Tel: 0181 466 1609

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DISCOVERY
94M, V8i ES, Auto, 5 dr, Niagra/Grey leather, wood, Air Con, 2 X ESR, CD, fact Lamps/bars, FLRSH, 40K. £19,500. Tel: 01296 393636 0374 980809

DISCOVERY TDi
96, 3 doors, Rioja Red, electric pack. FSH. 24,000 miles £16,850ono. 01543 373565 0385 557416.

JEEP

CHEROKEE
LTD 93L 4.0 Silver/Grey leather, AC, all extras, immac, 2 owners, FJSH, 30K. £15,750. 0171 7360878.

CHEROKEE 4Ltr LTD SE
93L Green/Charcoale, Heated, ram alrm. Towbar. 48k. £14,500 0836 280870 01279 777739.

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manual, F reg, 80k mls, Caspian blue, FSH, stereo cassette, elec. windows, ball bar, dog guard, taxed & MOT until Sept. Excellent condition £9,100ono. 01225 867424

OVERFINCH
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1993 L reg. Red, nudge bar, side runners. FSH. £15,500 ono. 01676 542685.

250 TURBO DIESEL
January 1996, 14K, metallic Silver, air conditioning, auto, tow bar with single electrics, mud flaps front & rear, car mats front & rear. £32,000 (Today's value £39,997) Tel: 01366 500266.

RANGE ROVER
4.6 HSE, 96N. Epsom/granite, 10k. £39,500. 01384 896700 or 0468 811277

RANGE ROVER
3.9SE, 95M, Avalon/granite, 23k. £25,950. 01384 896700 or 0468 811277

LSE
L Reg. Black/Beige lthr. All extras. Wrnty. 23k mls. F/body styling kit. £21,995 01986 785245

DSE
Auto, Feb 97, delivery mileage only. Rioja Red/Crema lthr. Extra's incl sunroof and 18" sports wheels. £40,000. 01543 373565 0385 557416.

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

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DISCOVERY

94L	95MY TDi 5Dr Green/Beige, 35T	£17,995
95N	TDi S Epsom/Granite, 8T	£22,495
95N	TDi S A Silver, Gran, FStyle, Styling, 37T	£[illegible]
95N	TDi XS Rioja/Granite, 8T	£23,995
95?	V8i ES Auto (95 Bolt) Black, 13T	£25,995
95N	V8i S A Epsom, 2 x Sunroof, 8T	£23,995
95R	V8i S Auto Niagara, 15T	£23,995
94M	V8i ES A Niagara, Tinted Windows, 6T	£24,995
95N	TDi ES Auto Epsom/Granite, 8T	£26,495
95N	95MY TDi ES Man Blue/Saxon, 18T	£25,995
96P	TDi ES Auto Black/Beige, 1T	£28,995

RANGE ROVER

95N	4.0 SE A Niagara/Granite, 18" Rh, 21T	£33,995
95N	4.6 HSE Black/Saddle, 18" Rh, 40T	£34,995
95N	4.6 HSE Avalon/Granite, TBar, 14T	£36,995
96P	DSE Auto WHSpec, Black/Cream, 6T	£42,995
96P	4.6 HSE Rioja, 18" Spoke Alloys, 5T	£46,995

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READING

DEFENDER

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DISCOVERY

95N	TDi 3Dr Caprice, 20T	£18,995
95N	TDi 5Dr Man Biarritz Blue, 17T	£19,995
96N	TDi S A Rioja, 30T	£20,995
96N	TDi S Epsom, 14T	£21,495
96N	TDi S Niagara, 13T	£21,995
96N	TDi S Caprice, 8T	£21,995
96N	TDi S Epsom, 14T	£22,995
96N	TDi S Man Rioja, aircon, 8T	£23,995
96N	TDi S Auto Biarritz	£23,995
96P	TDi S Rioja, 3T	£24,995
96P	V8i ES A Rioja, Del Miles	£30,995

CLASSIC RANGE ROVER

93L	4.2 LSE Auto Ardennes	£23,995
95N	Vogue SE TDi A Biarritz, 12T	£31,495

NEW RANGE ROVER

95N	4.0 SE A White, 17T	£31,995
95N	4.0 SE Auto Epsom, 32T	£32,495
94M	4.6 HSE A Niagara, 30T	£34,995
95M	4.6 HSE Epsom, 35T	£35,995
95N	4.6 HSE Rivera, 24T	£41,495
96N	4.6 HSE A Avalon, 3T	£41,495
96N	4.6 HSE Epsom, 14T	£41,995

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MERCEDES

260E
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E250D
Avante Garde, registered Feb'96, 9,000 miles, metallic silver, mint condition. £28,300. Tel. weekends 0121 308 6839 or weekdays 0121 554 7521

E220 COUPE
94L, pearl blue, mushroom leather, 8 hole alloys, RHR, SCA, CD, alarm, 1 owner, FMBSH, 29k mls. £27,500. 01633 267580.

190E
2 litre white, FMBSH, 52,000 miles, ESR, alloys, boot spoiler, totally immaculate, private sale. £11,595. Tel: 01202 624655.

S280
96, Green Black, Mushroom leather, climate, elec sunroof, electric memory seats/steering col, alloys, remote alarm, 11k miles, owner selling. £42,000. Tel. 01202 (Bournemouth) 892210 or mobile 0585 598718

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C280
Elegance, 94L, Malachite green, mushroom leather, auto, cruise, HLWW, folding rear seats, RHR, 8 hole alloys, immaculate condition, FMBSH. £21,850. Tel: 01379 898951.

C180
Esprit 1994 manual, alloys, sun roof, 12 months MOT, 50,000 miles, FMBSH, 1 owner. £13,995. Tel: 01708 384949 (days) 01702 203156 (eves & w/ends).

E220
Auto Saloon 4 door. 95 M, demo plus 1. £18,500. FMBSH. Metallic Silver/ Grey Cloth. 34K. Walnut. ESR. RHR. Twin bags. Blaupunkt Stereo Alarm. 0141 3331704 or 0976 426593

MERCEDES

C180
Sport, auto, 18,800 miles, 1994, Polar White, RHR, glass s/r, F.R.seat, rem lock/alarm, spoiler with brake light, FMBSH, 1 owner, £17,500. Tel. 0385 277780 (Lincs)

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PORSCHE

911SSE Wide Body Cab 89 White FSH Stunning £24,250 P/X 01895 835445 Bucks.T

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911 C2
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94, Midnight Blue/Black lthr int, full auto seats, air cond, full doc, 12k miles. One owner. All extras. Immaculate £51,000 Call Adam on 01707 650 771.

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911 Turbo 4
1995, 9k miles. Metallic black/ black leather, immaculate throughout. £87,500. Tel: 0181 8821111 (w), 0468 776666/ 0181 9549009 (e/w).

911 TURBO
Guards Red/black leather, sunroof, air con, 48k only FPSH, Reg No: RED 911M Totally superb. £24,995 PX/ Finance RISBOROUGH Motor Co 01844 342784

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CABRIOLETS

95N	911 C4 Arena	7T
94L	911 Tip S Midnight, Air	30T
93K	911 C2 Coral	19T
93L	911 C2 Tipt Silver	20T

COUPES

95N	911 C4 S Iris, Air	1T
95[illegible]	928 [illegible]	10T
91[illegible]	911 [illegible] Guards	41T
95M	911 Tip S Black, Air	[illegible]
94L	911 C[illegible]	29T
94M	[illegible]	25T
95M	911 Carrera Black, Air	[illegible]
94L	911 Tip "S" Silver, Air	[illegible]
94L	911 [illegible]	33T
95M	911 [illegible] Midnight	9T
94M	911 Carrera 4 Iris	15T
91J	911 C4 Silver [illegible]	[illegible]
98F	911 SE White [illegible]	41T

TARGA

96N	911 Targa Iris Air	3T
87D	911 SE Silver	46T

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CAMBRIDGE

96N	911 Tip "S" Cpe Silver, A/C	1T
96N	911 Turbo 4 Midnight/Marble	7T
96N	911 Carrera Cab Met Black	8T
95N	911 Carrera Cpe Silver, A/C	7T
95N	911 Turbo 4 Slate [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] Tip "S" Coupe Blk	22T
[illegible]	[illegible] Tip "S" Cab Aventura	14T
[illegible]	911 Carrera Cab Tip [illegible]	10T
94M	911 Carrera C[illegible]	45T
[illegible]	[illegible] Tip [illegible] Ed	25T
[illegible]	[illegible] Cab Tip Slate Grey	7T
92K	911 C2 Cab Tip T.Look [illegible]	[illegible]
91H	911 C2 [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	911 C2 [illegible] Grey	49T
[illegible]	[illegible] Carrera 2 Coupe Red	33T
[illegible]	911 SSE Coupe Black	65T
[illegible]	911 Turbo Cab [illegible]	45T
[illegible]	[illegible]	41T
[illegible]	[illegible]	23T
[illegible]	968 Club Sport White	30T
93L	968 Cabriolet Red	46T
93L	968 Cabriolet Tip White	23T
92J	Lamborghini Diablo Silver	17km
91J	Ferrari Testarossa Yellow	16T

All models available for demonstration

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LONDON

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

96N	911 Cpe Silver [illegible]	3T
[illegible]	[illegible]	31T
[illegible]	[illegible] Midnight, Air, 17"	34T

TIPTRONIC

96N	911 Cpe [illegible]	1T
[illegible]	[illegible]	13T
[illegible]	[illegible] Cab Iris Blue, A/C 17"	15T
96N	911 Cpe Iris Blue, Air [illegible]	12T
94M	911 Cpe [illegible]	28T
[illegible]	[illegible] Air Bag	39T
[illegible]	911 Cpe Guards, 17" Cup	32T

TWO WHEEL DRIVE

[illegible]	[illegible] 17"	6T
[illegible]	[illegible] Midnight, Air, 17"	1T
[illegible]	911 Tga Silver	2T
96mdl	911 Cab Silver, 17"	8T
95N	911 Cab Slate Grey	8T
96mdl	911 Cpe Silver, Air, 17"	3T
95N	911 Cpe Black Met, Air, 17"	8T
94L	911 Cpe Iris Blue, Air, 17"	25T
93L	911 C2 Cab Cobalt, Air	37T
91J	911 C2 Tga Black, 16" Cup	37T

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CARMART 1: ROAD TEST SPECIAL ON VAUXHALL'S DESIGNS TO MATCH YOUR LIFESTYLE

Dramatic change to the estate we're in

Alan Copps finds a thoughtful challenge aimed at some excellent opposition

ROADTEST 1

Some cars are better as estates than they are as saloons. They have to be because where once the "load lugger" was simply a variation of a basic model for people who needed more space, in the modern world of niche marketing the estate faces a tough struggle against the multi-seated people mover and the versatile off-roader.

The estate as a "driver's car" offering performance to satisfy the enthusiast as well space to carry a wardrobe is a relatively new concept, helped along by Volvo's success with estates in touring car racing and the sexy image of things such as the BMW Touring. In its top-of-the-range Vectra Sri estate with its lively 2-litre engine Vauxhall has not only brought the idea to a more affordable part of the market but wrought a great improvement in the car itself.

In the past few years the medium sector of the market, the mainstay of the company car driver, has seen an extraordinarily good series of models emerge from major manufacturers.

Ford's Mondeo, much trumpeted as the "world car", led the way. The highly-praised Peugeot 406 upped the ante and the Vectra showed just how hard the giants of the business were trying in this sector. The Vectra is certainly a good car, but its most direct competitors are excellent. As a hatchback or saloon it doesn't quite match the dynamics of the other two, its cabin feels more cramped and its ride a bit lumpy.

But in its estate version the car feels quite different, both from the driver's and the passenger's point of view. Extra space at the rear gives an impression of more space throughout. In fact, although the cabin and controls and especially the seats have been improved, physical space is the same as in the saloon version. But in these things, no matter how deep the marketing men delve into their dictionaries of superlatives, the driver's impression is a great deal more significant than any measurements.

More importantly, especially for passengers, the estate features a new multi-link rear suspension mounted on a subframe completely separate from the main structure of the car and is insulated from it by four large bushes. This matches the arrangement at the front end, where engine, front suspension and steering also have their own subframe. One aim of this change, together with improved noise damping, was to reduce the amount of "booming" and vibration which so often reverberates through the wide open spaces of an estate car. But with the sophisticated linkage of the suspension what it also does is to immeasurably improve ride and comfort.

To make sure this improvement is felt at all times, and to ensure good grip for the driven front wheels regardless of load at the rear, there is also the option of automatic self-levelling suspension which counteracts changes in handling and attitude and makes it unnecessary to adjust headlights when transporting heavy loads.

All versions come with a load cover and safety net, which although at first an irritation when looking in the rear-view mirror, has proved its worth protecting occupants in crash tests. The redesigned seats are a big step forward in comfort and the adjustable steering column makes finding a comfortable position much easier.

All this makes the SRi an unexpected pleasure to drive. The steering is precise, handling predictable and grip during the snowy weather was exceptional, helped by the anti-lock brakes and the traction control system surprisingly fitted as standard in the 2-litre and 2.5-litre V6 engined versions.

The traction control operates on both the engine management computer and directly on the brakes to prevent wheelspin. Its action is entirely automatic, but a dashboard tell-tale lets the driver know when it is in action. On icy roads even driving in what felt like the gentlest way it was instructive to notice just how frequently the TC light flicked on, even though only in extreme circumstances could its effect be felt through the controls. To find such a useful safety device on such a popular car shows how much thought went in to the Vectra estate's design.

This car cannot justify the usual estate-style claims about a world-beating load space. But in every other respect it puts the Vectra on a par with its competition.

Vectra estate: not a world beater on space, but in every other respect on a par with its competition, giving immeasurably improved ride and comfort over the saloon version

Packed with extras for all occasions

ROADTEST 2

IF YOU are aged 40 or thereabouts, married, have children, and are prepared to spend that little bit extra for a more powerful engine and higher equipment levels, then Vauxhall believes its Vectra Estate is the car for you, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

Despite competition from the multi-purpose people movers which in America have decimated sales in the estate car sector, and the drift towards four-wheel drive off-road cars, the humble estate is staging a sales revival.

Even Vauxhall might admit that this rise is driven as much by the carmaker's success in repackaging its estates as "must-have" life-style accessories rather than less-than-glamorous load-luggers. Estates now account for around 10 per cent of all car sales, compared to just over 7 per cent a decade ago, and the forecast is that the total will rise to 15 per cent of the new car market by 2000.

Vauxhall, whose Luton plant is the sole source of the Vectra estate for the whole of Europe, says: "The image of the estate car as a utility vehicle has undergone a dramatic change. The former load-carrier has become a leisure vehicle for everyday use, long-distance travel, and for recreation." Which is why Vauxhall has ended a 10-year absence from the midsize estate sector.

Vauxhall's own research shows that customers for mid-size estates are attracted more by the car's looks than by its practicality. As many as a third of estate buyers say that the car's looks are the most important to them, followed by interior space (25 per cent) and luggage capacity (15 per cent).

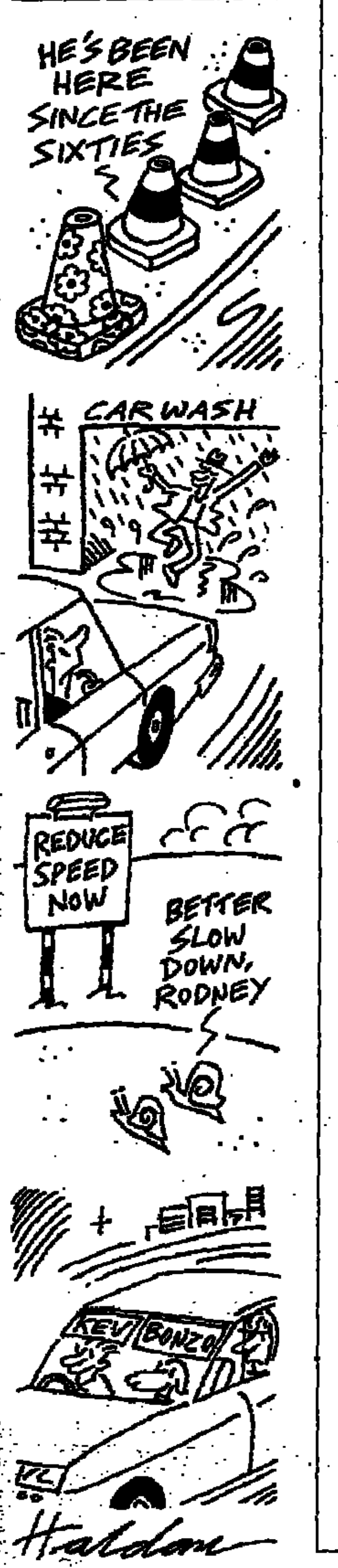
This is reflected in the range of Activity Pack options on offer with the estate. For the surfing enthusiast there is the lockable roof-rack plus surfboard carrier, a roof-mounted boat carrier for the maritime fan, and even a lockable roof-rack base plus ski rack for those planning to take their Vectra to the snow. Other packages include the Sportsbody Pack, the Sports Chassis Pack, the travel Pack with aerodynamically shaped roof-top Sportbox, and the Towing Pack. The Vectra estate is for drivers who take their time off very seriously indeed.

The CDX is loaded with equipment, including safety-oriented items such as anti-lock braking, traction control, air conditioning, pollen filter, and — essential for any estate — automatic self-levelling. Cup holders are hidden by wooden panels and offer fascinating and cheap entertainment, unfolding via an incredibly complex array of hinges.

For Vauxhall, the Vectra estate's main target is the estate version of the rival Ford Mondeo, and to that end a confusing 23 versions are being offered. Why so many? Stuart Harris, Vauxhall team marketing manager, says: "We considered our customers very carefully. This means that there is a tremendous variety of models and, importantly, our customers will not have to compromise on style just because they need a larger load area."

It also means Vauxhall is able to offer the Vectra estate from £13,470 up to £22,270.

CAR TOONS



KENT PICTURES

No problems: Valerie Elliott loads in her mother's wheelchair without having to struggle over a tailgate lip

Easy rider that carries it off

ROADTEST 3

Many years ago, when Nissans were still called Datsun and estates had wooden strips, my wife, Valerie, fell in love with a Sunny, *writes Harvey Elliott*.

It was, she said, the only car that enabled her to slide heavy shopping straight on to the flat platform, could carry football-muddy schoolboys and yet was light to handle, small enough to manoeuvre into the tightest space and economical.

But the old reliable Datsun estate was made redundant in favour of new, bigger, more macho versions, some of which we tried without too much enthusiasm. We also tried the ubiquitous hatchback — and came to hate the awful lip that forced anyone loading through the rear hatch and tailgate to lift heavy goods over it, far too high for their own good.

When my mother-in-law came to live in a "granny annexe" and needed to be manhandled into and out of the passenger seat and her wheelchair loaded into the back the need for another genuine estate became paramount.

Search as we could, we failed to find anything that was small, economical, comfortable and yet sturdy enough. There were huge tanks of the sort favoured by the parents of public schoolboys and girls from the Home Counties. We even found the odd small estate with a tailgate without that awful lip, but in nearly every case it seemed they were under-powered or had such wafer-thin bodywork that I could not feel safe driving them. Then came the Vauxhall Vectra estate.

My week's testing did not begin well. The car came in the diesel version and I feared noise, pollution and slow acceleration response. And, as I took the handbrake off, it was much too close to the centre armrest for comfort.

But within minutes I was sold. The diesel, admittedly noisy at first, soon quietened as the engine warmed up. The acceleration on the motorway was "get-out of trouble" fast and the lay-out and feel of the driving seat excellent.

But would it pass the wheelchair and shopping test? It sailed through with flying colours as the wheelchair was bundled in with hardly a murmur of protest and heavy boxes of shopping were slid effortlessly on to the wide load-bearing floor.

The fuel tank is vast and the economy astonishing. In over 500 miles both in town and on the motorways I was getting over 60mpg: the official figure is 67.3mpg at a constant 56mph.

Perhaps because of the size of the fuel tank, there is a disconcerting banging and sloshing when braking and stopping at traffic lights as the fuel washes around the tank. But no car is perfect.

VECTRA ESTATE

Engines:
Four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1.8-litre produces 115bhp at 5400rpm.
Four-cylinder 16-valve, 2-litre produces 136bhp at 5600rpm.
V6 2.5-litre produces 169bhp at 5800rpm.
Four-cylinder 2-litre, turbocharged, direct-injection diesel produces 82bhp at 4300rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual or four-speed automatic with fuel-saving Neutral Control. Front wheel drive.

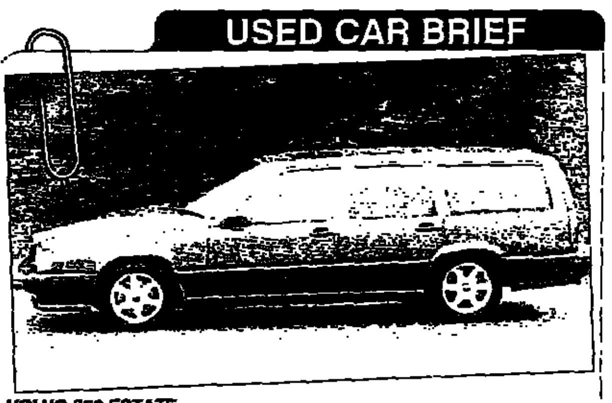
Performance:
1.8-litre: Max speed 121mph, 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds.
Two-litre: Max speed 128mph, 0-60mph in 10 seconds.
Diesel: Max speed 105mph, 0-60mph in 16 seconds.
V6: Max speed 143mph, 0-60mph in 8.5 seconds.

Economy:
1.8-litre: Urban 23.5mpg, extra-urban 42.8mpg, combined 32.8mpg.
Two-litre: Urban 22.8mpg, extra-urban 40.9mpg, combined 31.7mpg.
Diesel: Urban 33.6mpg, extra-urban 53.3mpg, combined 44.1mpg.
V6: Urban 19.9mpg, extra-urban 34.9mpg, combined 27.4mpg.

Equipment: (CDX) anti-lock braking, power steering, traction control, air conditioning, automatic self-levelling, trip computer, adjustable steering column, remote control central locking and engine immobiliser, TrafficMaster.

Prices: £13,470 to £22,270.

USED CAR BRIEF



VOLVO 850 ESTATE
In my first outing in a Volvo 850 Estate a curious London motorcycle policeman stopped me to chat about the car's good looks. The 850 enabled the words Volvo, style and fun to appear, without irony, in the same sentence. Launched as a saloon in 1992, the five-door estate arrived a year later. Available with 2 and 2.5-litre petrol and 2.5-litre turbodiesel engines, just-launched All Wheel Drive, and the storming 2.3-litre turbocharged petrol T5.

✓ **GOOD NEWS:** What makes the 850 fun to drive is the range of five-cylinder engines developed by Porsche, and the chassis, which uses front-wheel-drive and is sportier than any Volvo estate before it. Boasts more cubic foot of luggage space than rivals like Scorpio. Upright styling means passenger space is plentiful.

LOOK FOR: The more recent turbo-diesel, developed by Audi, gives extraordinary performance with 140bhp, though these are relatively rare and prices reflect this. Among the petrol cars the 2-litre offers probably more than enough performance for the average Volvo driver.

SAFETY: When it comes to safety big Volvos, like the classroom swot, always get top marks, scoring above average in the Department of Transport safety ratings. There is even an all-wheel-drive version for those who want extra grip in icy or wet conditions. Power steering, anti-lock brakes, and on later models an airbag, are all standard.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): clutch assembly £230; full exhaust £300; catalytic converter £825; front brakepads (pair) £65; alternator (exchange) £180; headlamp £180.

⊘ **BAD NEWS:** Does not haul as much cargo as the bigger Volvo 700 and 900 Series. Still looks a mile slab-sided from some angles. Interior is dated, featuring the Volvo preference for angular edges rather than the more modern flowing lines favoured by rivals.

AVOID: Unless you really want to cart your hay bales, children and labradors at luridly illegal speeds, the T5 and special edition T5 R are way too fast. The 850 range is relatively new so all examples should be immaculate. Any fitted with a towbar must be checked to ensure transmission and rear suspension is in tip-top shape and has not been abused hauling huge trailers or horseboxes.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 2.5-litre 1992 L-reg Volvo 850 Estate costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £225 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £2,002, and a similar female pays £1,407.

£ **PRICES:** Expect to pay £11,800 for a 1993 K-reg SE 2-litre 20valve 850 five-door estate, £14,000 for a 1993 L-reg 2.5-litre SE 10valve, £18,000 for a 1994 L-reg T5 Turbo, £16,800 for a 1994 M-reg GLT 2-litre 20valve, and £19,000 for a 1994 M-reg T5 GLE.

OVERALL: Volvo even raced their 850 estate in the British Touring Car Championships, though with a fiercely uprated 300bhp engine. The 850 has single-handedly revolutionised the Volvo image. A fine people and load carrier, not as cathedral-like inside as the big Volvos, but capacious enough. It is solid, durable, and a good looker, especially from behind. Prices can be high from dealers, though they offer the widest choice.

هكذا من الأصل

Strange, but true . . . **Alan Copps** looks at some amazing medal winners in Toyota's Idea Olympics

Land of the driving fun

What do Toyota engineers do in their spare time? Most of them, it seems, design and build vehicles. This confirmation of everything we know about the Japanese work ethic is celebrated every year by what the company calls its "Idea Olympics".

The results range from concepts that might make rival designers scratch their heads and say: "Why didn't we think of that?" to zany creations which make the rest us wonder how much we understand the Japanese sense of humour.

The latest competition to design "creative, original and fun vehicles" attracted 1,322 entrants from the Toyota Engineering Society, a sort of out-of-hours think-tank dedicated to proving that engineering can be fun. It's encouraged by the company to develop technical skills and exchange imaginative ideas. How many of its conclusions go into cars for the road is a closely guarded secret.

The prizes, of course, are nothing so mean as money. "They do it purely for the honour of winning," said a Toyota official. Top award, the Grand Prize in this the 21st *Idea Olympics*, went to the Z-Board: *the ultimate skateboard*, perhaps a little higher than most of us might like, but powered by a pollution-free spiral spring mechanism operated by a tilting movement. It also feaures four-wheel steering. Is this the answer to the problems of urban transport?

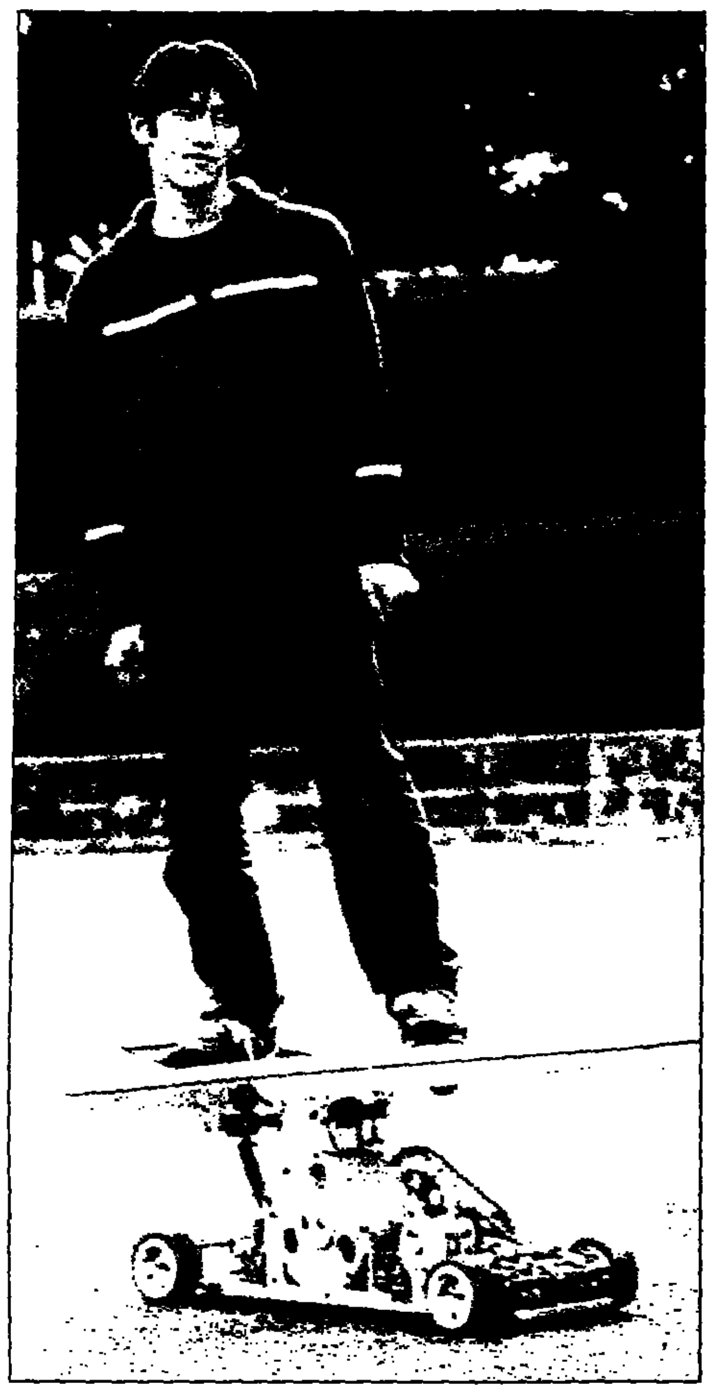
Of course, if you have a head for heights and feel the Z-Board is a little tame, then there's the Parent and *Child Giraffe, which attracted* a special award from the chief judge. Based on a real Toyota vehicle the device gives a relaxing tree-top view by raising the driver's seat six metres through the roof. Whoever met an engineer with his head in the clouds? An integrated umbrella provides weather protection and the whole ensemble *comes* with a *warning that it should not* be used while the *car is in motion.*

Perhaps the most practical idea is the Bike Cycle which has interchangeable engines, one for qualified adults or a smaller one for children. The Hand Boy moves along by bending its fingers through a "*double four-joint mechanism*" — *which, according to my* calculation, makes it one *joint better off than the real thing*. It *also comes* with built-in amusement for the kids: if you're stuck in a jam it can play that old "rock, scissors, paper" game.

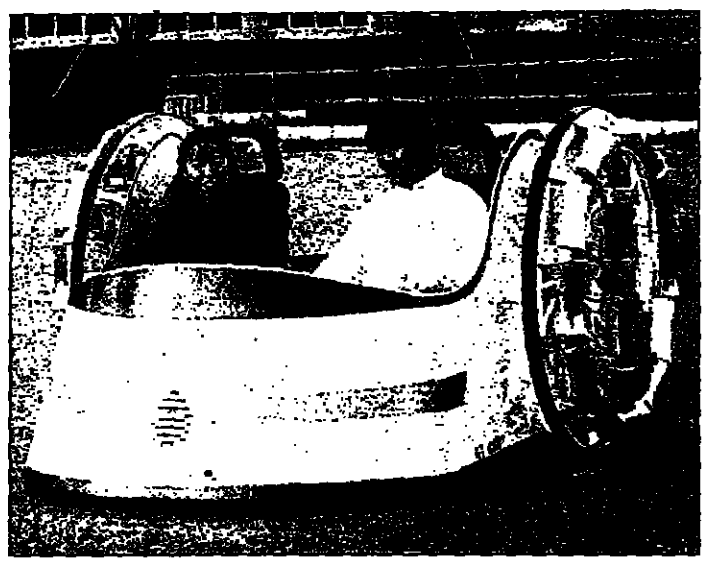
The QT Cart relies on a constant speed rotating roller transaxle and is operated by a single lever, while the climbing Walcar is *said* to *mimic the movements of animals*. A *double* front axle allows the front wheels *to* act independently when walking *or* climbing, but when *running* it behaves just like any *other four-wheel* buggy.

What *happens* to all these wonderful vehicles after the judging is a bit of a mystery. "I think some may go into the Toyota museum. Others may be taken apart so the bits can be used in other experiments," said the lady in Toyota's press office.

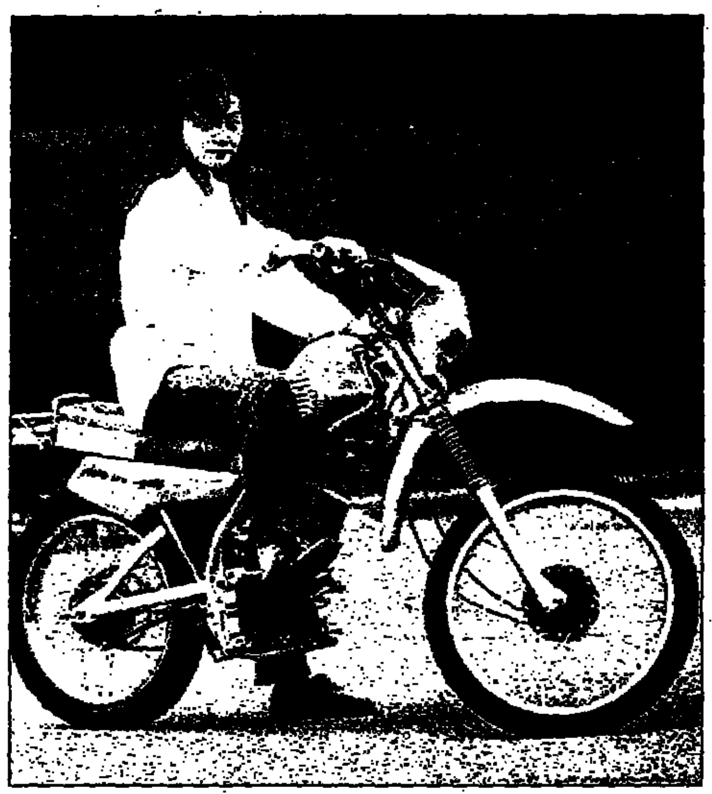
But next time you read a piece here or anywhere else about how boring Japanese cars are, remember the *Idea Olympics*. Then see if you can detect any "Giraffe" influence in the cabin of your Carina or Corolla.



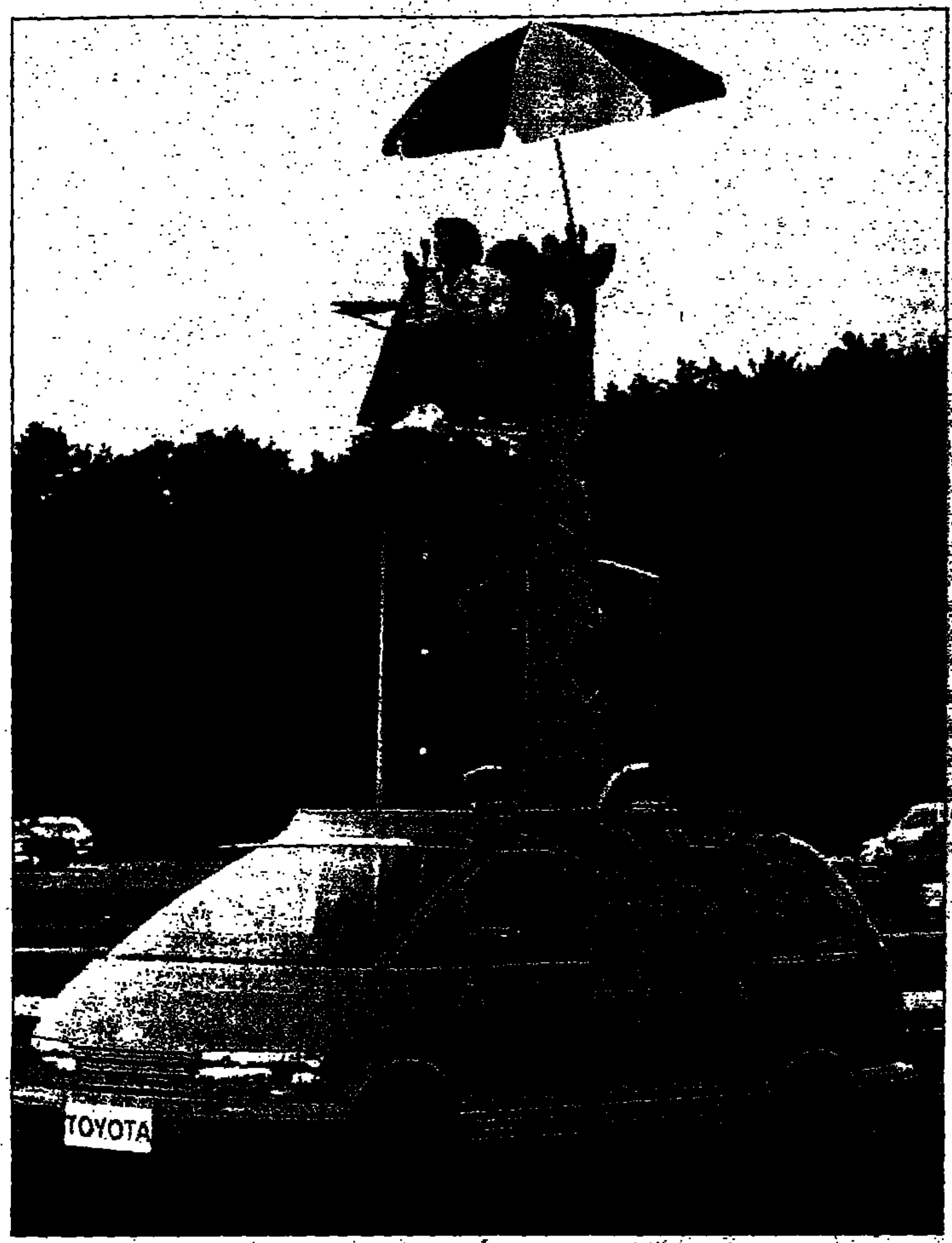
The Z-Board, powered by a pollution-free spiral spring mechanism



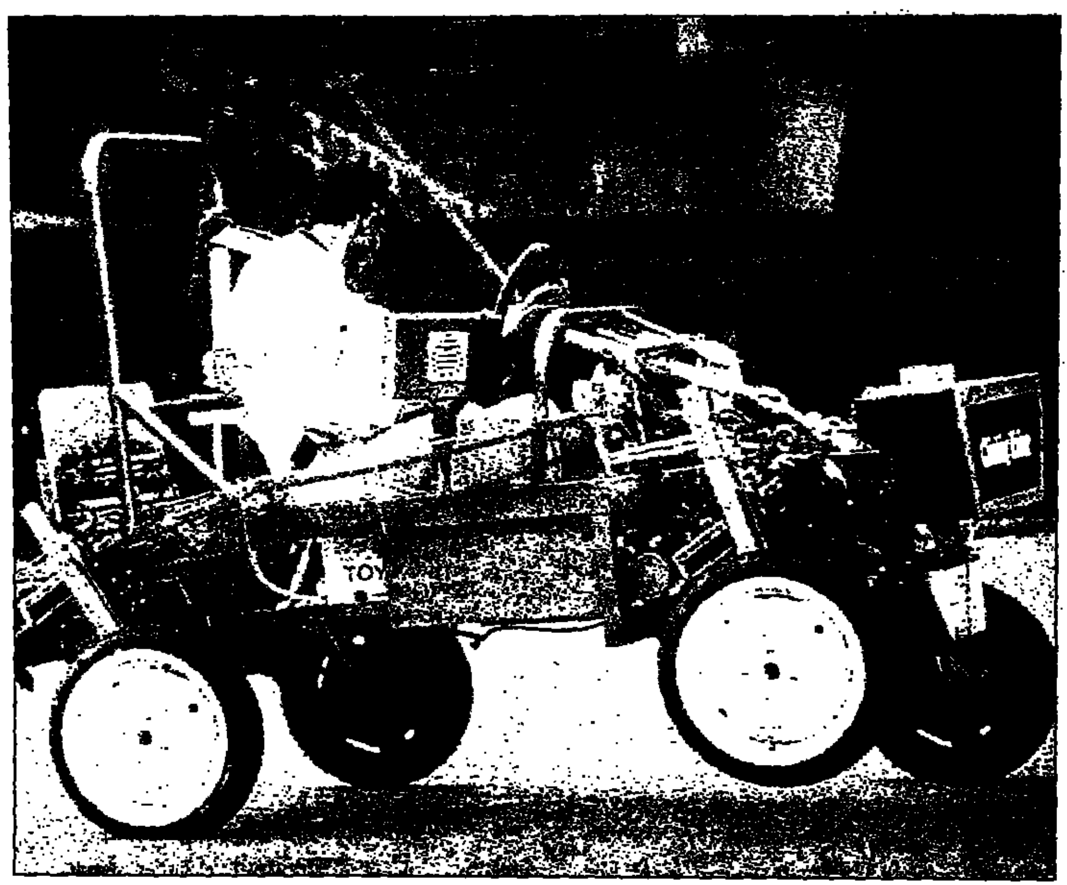
The QT Cart: constant speed rotating roller transaxle



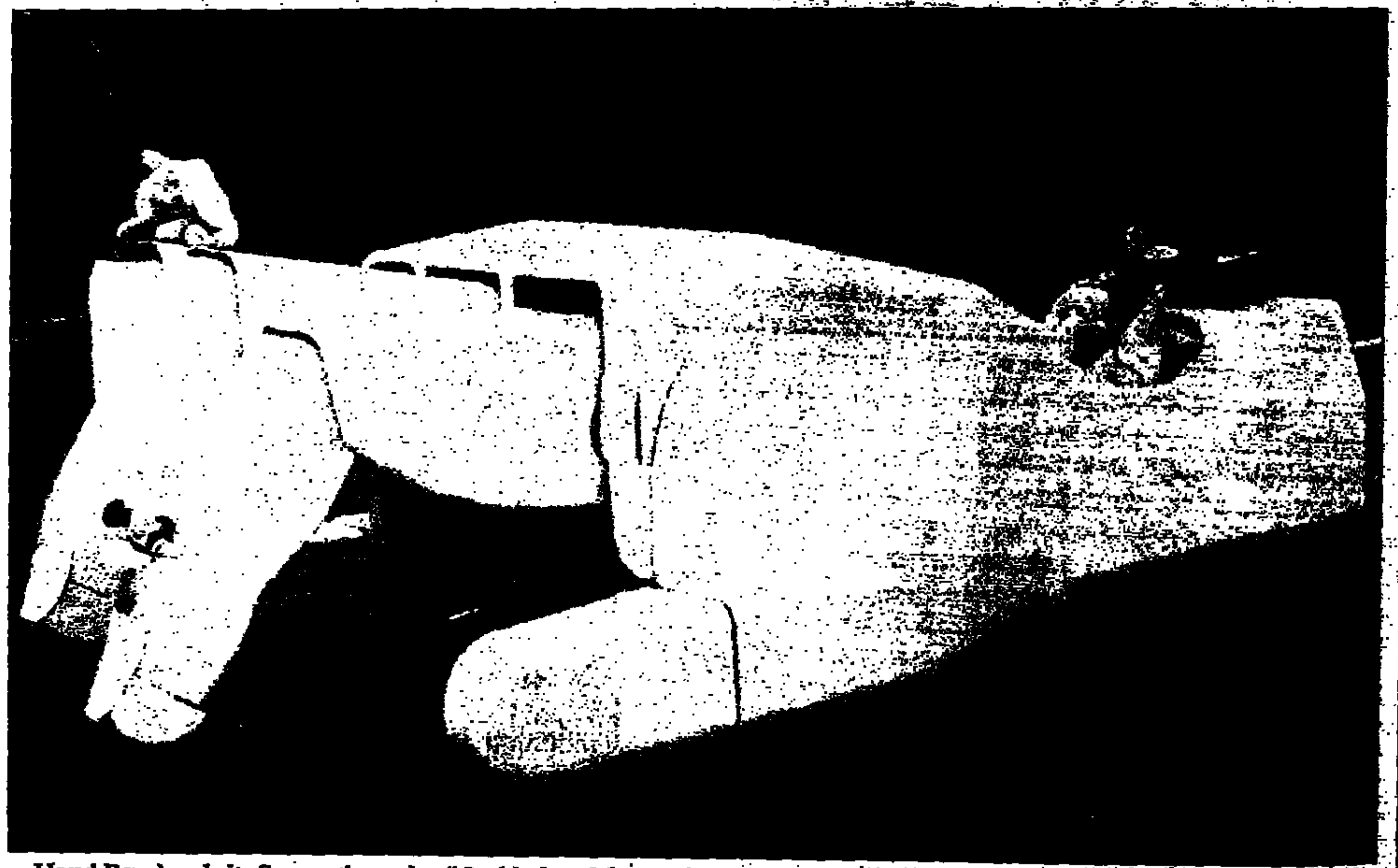
Bike Cycle: one engine for qualified adults, one for children



Parent and Child Giraffe: based on a real *Toyota*, with the driver six metres above the roof



The Climbing Walcar: a four-wheel buggy said to imitate the movements of animals



Hand-Boy: bends its fingers through a "double four-joint *mechanism*", which makes *it* one joint better off than the real thing

Hyundai creates a whole new concept of taking the car out for a spin

The Accent, says **Helen Mound**, is on being like a washing machine — it does the job, but would you boast about it?

A washing machine. That's what the new Hyundai Accent MVi Coupé reminds me of. A functional and simple-to-use *household item, with all its buttons and controls in the right places, doing* exactly what the manufacturer says they should. Nothing offends, nothing surprises; and, despite being the sporty version of Europe's top-selling Korean car, that's about as exciting as Hyundai motoring gets.

Just as ordinary white goods look at home in the kitchen, an Accent Coupé will look fine on the drive. But if a Mercedes-Benz Coupé is the Aga of domestic garages, then this Hyundai *is in the realms of a* Bendix washerdryer. *A reliable household appliance you can take for granted*, but not *something you* brag about.

Cars as white goods isn't a *new idea*, but it is increasingly becoming the domain of the Koreans. Hyundai and Daewoo have become household *names, challenging the popularity of functional* and reliable Japanese cars.

There's no criticism hidden in calling these cars white goods — many people think such an approach is the future of motoring. What you lose in individuality or entertainment, you gain in reliability and practicality — which is exactly what you want from household appliances.

Daewoo dealerships bear out the feeling of cars as white goods by imitating the experience of shopping at an Argos warehouse.

Hyundai maintains a more traditional approach to selling cars, with 150 dealers in the UK, who sold nearly 11,000 Accent hatchbacks and 19,000 cars overall last year.

The Hyundai Accent MVi Coupé, *which has just gone on sale — not to be confused with* the sexy-looking Hyundai Coupé launched last year — is a three-door version of the five-door Accent hatchback. The MVi badge indicates the new multi-valve, four-valves per cylinder 1.5-litre engine (the other 1.5 and 1.3 engines in the range are three-valves per cylinder).

The *manufacturer claims 18* per cent more cleaning power, er, *sorry, more power, thanks to the extra valves. The respectable performance* bears witness to that, managing a top speed of 112mph and a 0-60mph sprint time of 11.2 seconds, which makes overtaking swifter and safer.

It's a comfortable but unremarkable experience to drive the Accent MVi. I've already *forgotten* what *the* steering was like, which *means it must* have been light, satisfactorily responsive and reasonably precise.

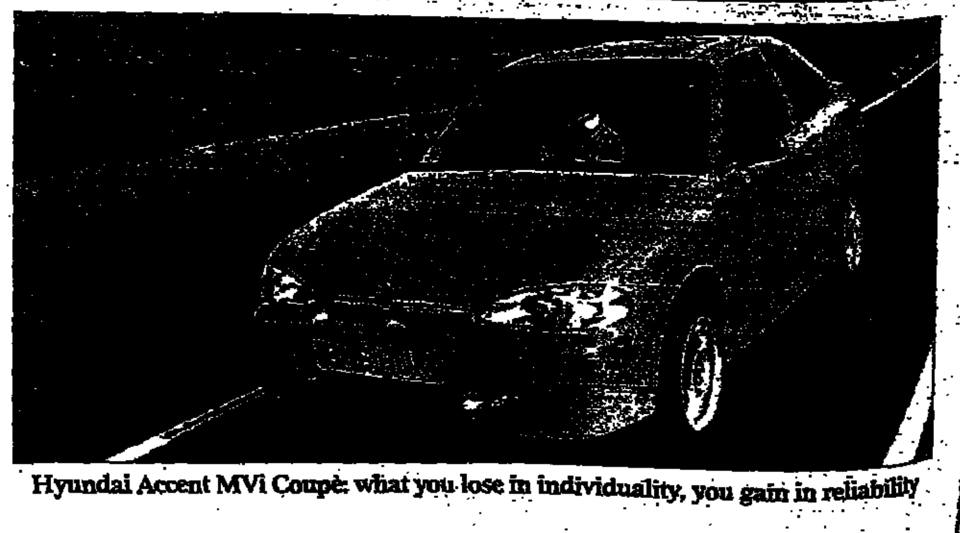
I do remember that its turning circle was tight enough to make it around a mini-roundabout with one turn — all that really matters in day-to-day driving. Similarly, the *pedals did their job without* causing concern — *not too stiff, not too light* — and the brakes *hauled the car to a standstill without raising an eyebrow*. The gearshift is slightly more memorable because of its long, notchy movement between each gate, but that's hardly likely to spoil your day.

The Coupé's interior is also pleasingly unobtrusive. There is nothing worse than an unremarkable car that tries to compensate for its lack of distinction by assaulting your eyes with a blaze of wacky seat trims and tacky colour-coded carpets and plastics. *Instead the Accent is trimmed with* a little colour in its fabrics and smart but inexpensive-looking black plastics.

Outside the MVi Coupé makes its extra performance ability known with flared sills and a deeper bumper front and rear with built-in foglights. The only let down is the ten-spoke alloy wheels, *which were designed* to look *sporty but are more successful at looking twee.*

Hyundai hopes customers will include "style-conscious younger women", a wish that appears to be at least partly well founded. Prior to the launch of the Accent in 1995, Hyundai drivers were aged over 50 on average, last year the age profile dropped to 45.

HYUNDAI ACCENT: 1.5 COUPE
Engine: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1495cc producing 98bhp at 5,900 rpm.
Performance: Top speed, 112mph; 0-60mph, 11.2 seconds.
Economy: Urban 26.6mpg, extra urban 42.8mpg, combined 34.9mpg.
Equipment: Power steering, radio cassette stereo and four speakers, electric front windows, manual *sunroof*, remote tailgate and fuel filler release.
Price: £10,567.
Optional Extras: Metallic paint £199; mica paint £239; Air-conditioning £1,270.



Hyundai Accent MVi Coupé: what you lose in individuality, you gain in reliability

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MERCEDES

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32 valve, 91 model in silver, bumpers & skirts in full colour, dark blue hide, rear seats, CD Multiplay, air, cruise, electric memory seats, fully loaded, 35,000 miles, Full MB SH. Brand new Mercedes alarm. This car is in showroom condition, only people seeking the best need apply. £44,950
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95M, Midnt Blue, Blk lthr, climate, ATS, elec sts, twin air bags, alarm, 10k, WTY.
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500 SL
32 Valve, 91 model in silver, bumpers & skirts in full colour, dark blue hide, rear seats, CD Multiplay, air, cruise, electric memory seats, fully loaded, 35,000 miles, Full MB SH. Brand new Mercedes alarm. This car is in showroom condition, only people seeking the best need apply. £44,950
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1991 Met. blue, 58k mls, Chairman's car, immaculate.
£15,650
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E320
93L, Anthracite met. Cream leather int, 5spd Auto, climate control + many other extras. 83K miles, FMBSH, immaculate.
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420SL
88 F, Nautic blue, cream hide, rear seat, HPS, 67k, FSH.
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300SL
1992 K reg, less than 20k mls, FMBSH, pearl blue, fabric, r/seat, cruise, h/lamp wash, 8H alloys, high quality Kenwood CD system.
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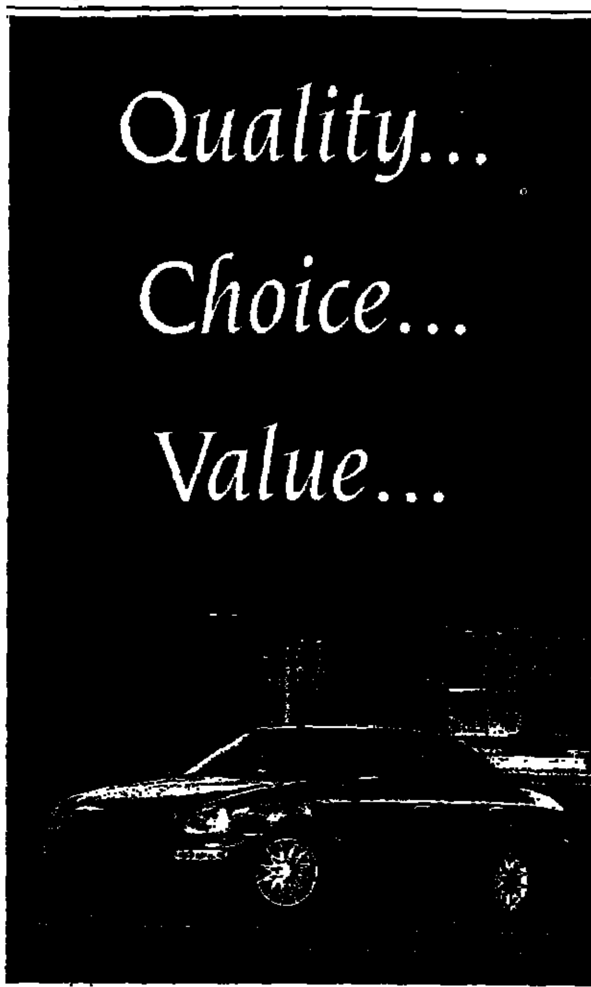

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CARMART 2: DRY ICE, DISCO AND VIDEO SCREENS — BRITAIN'S FORECOURTS ARE CHANGING

QUADRANT

With a massive choice of vehicles, supermarkets located near major motorways will offer prices for new and used cars well below traditional outlets — and buyers will not have to shop around to compare the range of what's on offer

Variations on a theme of selling motors

Vaughan Freeman looks at the new-style showrooms

Booming disco music, swirling white clouds of dry ice, and a full-blown mock-up of a 1950s American diner are the new face of car selling.

The GTi Centre in Huddersfield claims to be Britain's first "themed" showroom, where the emphasis is as much on making it a place to go, to enjoy, and to be seen at, as well as a place for swapping cash for wheeled metal.

The face of car showrooms and forecourts is changing as new and used car outlets big and small try new ways to woo customers. Instead of haggle and hassle, the anxiety of choosing the right car, and the fret and fear of negotiating the right deal, the man behind the GTi Centre, Paul Beswick, has invested £1.3million in taking a Disneyworld-style approach aimed at relaxing and entertaining would-be buyers.

At the other extreme, a string of up to half-a-dozen Car Supermarket megastores is set to spread across the nation, each featuring up to 2,000 second-hand cars up to four years old, with the pledge that customers will never see a salesman until they are ready to part with their cash.

As well as the 1950s diner, Beswick's GTi Centre is crammed with motoring memorabilia such as signs, petrol pumps and traffic lights. Sporting souvenirs include helmets and racing suits worn by the likes of Damon Hill, Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell. There is a wall of nine video screens, a blaring disco system, and a single-seat racing car hangs from the ceiling.

"I wanted to bring a bit more fun into the industry I suppose, so we built a themed garage using all sorts of automotive memorabilia featuring racing themes," Beswick says. "The car sales sector seemed to have stagnated a bit and this was my way of shaking things up."

Razzmatazz alone is not enough to sell cars. Beswick is happy to concede that the cars he sells "might not always be the cheapest, but they are guaranteed to be the best". They are backed by a complete package aimed at giving customers peace of mind, including 12 months MoT, a comprehensive warranty of up to 36 months, insurance advice, full valet and a check on whether the vehicle has been stolen or crashed in the past.

Full mechanical back-up is provided with a rolling road technical centre and workshop. Selling and tuning performance cars is just part of the deal. Beswick's GTi Centre sells everything from branded engine oil, to caps, key fobs, and leisure wear.

"We have set out to create the Number One performance car superstore, and to make it fun," Beswick says. "There are no suits, and no ties. Everything is very relaxed so that customers are not intimidated.

"We could have built a smaller unit, and filled it with GTis, laid the forecourt with tarmac and just sold cars. We decided to do something a bit different and more interesting, more like a nightclub."

The next stage is to use the Centre as a host venue where performance car enthusiasts can congregate every fortnight to show off their cars, swap stories, and enjoy a meal. It is hoped that first to take advantage of the Centre's "Show Off Cruises" will be the VW Owners Club in February.

The Car Supermarket in Cannock, Staffordshire, takes a very different approach. Last year the six-acre site sold an extraordinary 20,000 vehicles, and is now being expanded to 12 acres. A similar-sized outlet will open in Northampton in the summer, with long-term plans for up to 10 Car Supermarket megastores nationally selling around 200,000 used cars a year.

Each Supermarket will be sited within a few miles of a major motorway to make access as easy as possible, and feature everything from a cafeteria to a creche.

Car Supermarkets chief executive Peter King says that huge volumes enable his sites to sell cars up to two years old for an average £1,000 cheaper than high street showrooms, and around £4,000 cheaper than the same car might cost new.

If the scale of the operation might seem daunting and unfriendly, public reaction says King, *indicates otherwise*: "Since we opened the Cannock site five years ago, all the evidence is that the car-buying public is happy to follow the hypermarket retailing trend already set by warehouse outlets on retail parks selling, for instance, computers, office goods or white goods."

Such huge outlets enable customers to see every car on their shopping list without driving from forecourt to forecourt, showroom to showroom. King says: "The Car Supermarket takes the pressure off the consumer having to shop around different forecourts, each one with only a restricted choice. The other important element is that this really does respond to consumer demand."

Customers can simply browse among the cars without being approached by a member of sales staff. Only if they see a car they like, and then actively seek out one of the 20-strong staff, do things go further.

The price on the car windscreen is the price paid, and there is no haggling. Similarly with part exchanges, the ball park offer for the customer's trade-in car is set using the independent *CAP Black Book* price guide via computer screen, and is finalised once the Supermarket's used car assessors have inspected the trade-in vehicle.

King says: "The impact of what we do is best indicated by the fact that we have been so successful. Out of the 3,000 people who visit our site each week, one in ten buys a car. That compares to an average conversion rate of one in 30 elsewhere in the trade."

BUYERS' GUIDE

- ● Know just what kind of car you want when you set out.
- ● Don't get carried away: dream cars rarely come second-hand.
- ● Don't buy without a test drive: 20 minutes at the wheel is worth hours on the forecourt.
- ● Check the paperwork: a £28.50 vehicle *identity check from* HPI (01722 422422) could save a lot of trouble.
- ● *Don't accept the* first price quoted: haggle or shop around.

HOW TO GET THE BEST PRICE WHEN YOU SELL

Alan Brain sells up to £45 million worth *of used cars a year*. On *a busy day he* sells 60 cars, and as many as 5,000 vehicles anually. He knows what makes a car sell while others gather dust on the forecourt.

Brain is used vehicle marketing director with Fleet Management Services which runs a fleet of 14,000 cars for customers. Each year about a third come up for sale and he must ensure they attract the best possible price.

He believes the private motorist should think more like a professional car dealer to cut the financial damage done by vehicle depreciation, the hidden menace that is the biggest cost to any motorist.

"People buy a new car to enjoy it now," he says. "They don't look three years down the line in the same way that a professional buyer would. If I were a private person buying a car, I would look at a few trends in motoring first. I would take note of the fact that in the past few years air-conditioning has become the 'in' word. In three years cars without it will be thought of as very base models.

"Anti-lock brakes are also a must. Apart from the fact that they pay for themselves the first time they save your life, they add to the value of the car. Power steering too is important. I stand on auction floors day after day and see dealers walk up to cars, stick their arm through the window and move the steering wheel to see if it has power steering. If it doesn't, they walk away or pay less for it.

"Colour is a serious issue too. In the trade we talk of 'doom blue' — dark blues which rob a car of value. Dark green too is bad news. Bright red is still well received, and there are new colours now like bright green metallics which could be very, very sought after in three years.

"If I was a private buyer looking for an executive car I would go nowhere near one with a pudding stick — a manual. Such cars must have automatic transmission or they will not sell second-hand.

"Whatever car you buy, get an alarm and immobiliser. If the car doesn't come with one, get it fitted the day after you take delivery."

Having bought the car, how you drive it *and look after it, will make* a huge difference on its used value says Brain. Before you even get in he says, fit floor mats: "Tread on a car's carpets *just once* and *you have knackered* them and they will never look the same". Never smoke in the car either, he says. The near-paranoid anti-smoking fever means that a car that smells of cigarette smoke — a smell that can never be got rid of — will be worth a lot less than a non-smoker's car.

Caring for the car is vital too: "I cannot stress enough the value of a fully stamped service history book. I sell thousands of cars a year, and make sure every one has a full service history which gives comfort and confidence to the person who buys it. It also makes it easier for the buyer to get finance on the car since firms are happier arranging finance on a car with a full service history."

Tending to little bumps and car park scrapes the day they happen, and replacing wheel trims as soon as they are lost, are also key elements, he says: "Once a car starts to look a little bit tired, people lose respect for it and are not so careful with it."

When selling, the car must be pristine. Buyers know that a dirty car is either unloved or that the dirt is hiding paint blemishes or accident damage and will bid accordingly. For a dealer, buying a dirty car means he will have to spend time and money getting it ready for resale.

"When you come to sell, clean the car like there's *no tomorrow*," Brain says. "We talk about cleaning money into a car, and it's perfectly true."

Are there features that will actively deter would-be buyers? John Highfield, marketing director of the Car Shop which advertises used cars on interactive TV and the Internet, says: "Consumers who are buying with a view to sell should also consider what can turn a used car buyer off. Cars with boy racer strips, sporty features such as an attached spoiler, and ostentatious colours all turn peoples' heads — away from the car."

> 'Consider what can turn a used car buyer off'

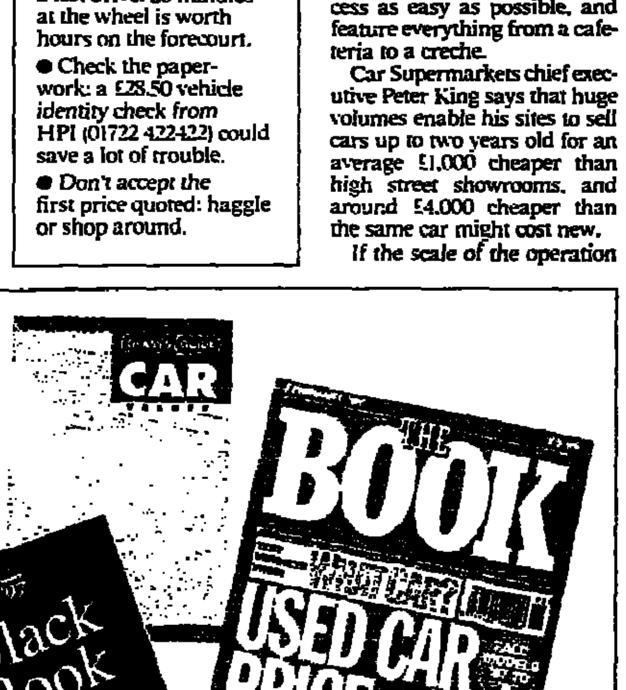
Priceless source

SPARE PARTS

■ NEW CAR sales in 1997 are likely to exceed 2.1 million, the third highest on record, according to *Glass's Guide*, one of two pocket-sized volumes which the men in the motor trade refer to when they quote the "book value" of a used car.

The best year for new car *sales in Britain* was 1989 when 2,300,944 were sold. The following year sales reached 2,215,574. While *such* figures are made public, the real information in *Glass's* and its rival, the *CAP Black Book*, is closely guarded by the trade. The books give guide prices for all used cars, detailing minor changes and variations by the month. But a new publication which appeared last year means that second-hand car buyers can go into the market armed with similar information. Produced by the publishers of *What Car?* magazine *The Book, Used Car Price Guide, sets out in* the same way prices for both private and dealer sales. It also has road test information and reliability ratings for each car.

The Book *is available from newsagents and bookstores £2.95 monthly.*



Capping the Glass: the Book of facts for all drivers

Carlton athletic

FORECOURT

PROOF of the strength of the Vauxhall Carlton (1982-1993) came when it was chosen by the police to cover massive mileages, many at high speed, round-the-clock as a motorway patrol car, reports *CAP Black Book*, making it a robust buy used.

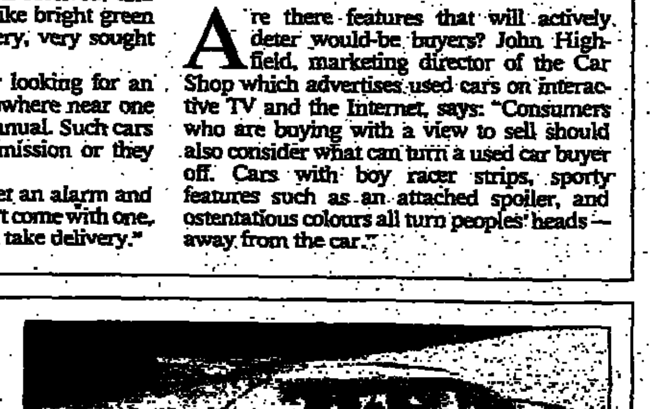
The straightforward mechanics of the car are a huge plus, as this keeps maintenance costs low. For the DIY *motorist who likes to tinker*, the Carlton is accessible and not too hi-tech, *Vaughan Freeman writes*.

A downside is its image. Caravanners soon cottoned on to its huge towing power and carrying ability, and for all its tough and robust strengths, the Carlton has always been considered relatively unrefined.

Best deal is the 2.0i CDX auto estate. Expect to pay around £6,000 for a 1990 H-reg with average mileage. The Carlton is a big car, so avoid the underpowered 1.8-litre automatics, and any car *that has had a hammering in* a previous life as a taxi. Watch out for oil leaks, noisy camshafts and whining power steering pumps.

The Seat Ibiza (1987-92) is also practical and simple to maintain, inexpensive to buy and handsome. Unfortunately it is also flimsily-built, *has poor used values* and a whacky dashboard. The Ibiza is not liked in the trade because *of its* poor build quality, so trade-in prices for owners who are selling can be very depressing.

Avoid any examples that are not in absolutely perfect condition, and that lack a full service history. Best buy is the 1.5 GLX five door. Expect to pay around £3,000 for a 1992 K-reg car with average miles, and best to get an AA or RAC engineer's inspection to ensure the car is sound before handing over any money.



Carlton: relatively unrefined, but easy to maintain

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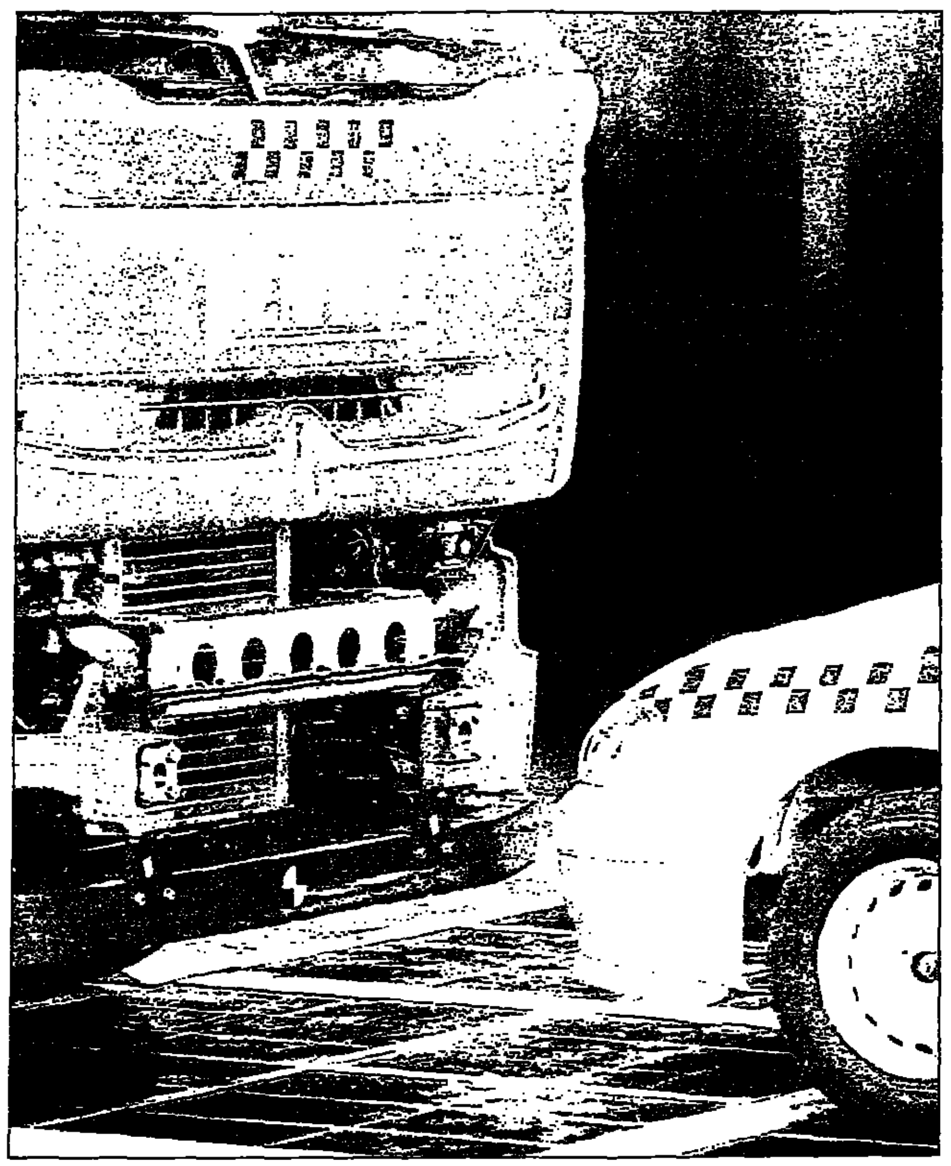

When the Megane was hurled at 40mph straight at the front of Renault Premium truck . . .

. . . the sickening impact turned the stomach to water. But the car did not become fatally trapped under the truck's bumper

BRAKE POINT

- THE impetus to make safety rather than performance the main selling point for modern vehicles continues at Mercedes-Benz, which has developed a "brainy brake" system to radically reduce stopping distances in an emergency.
- The Advanced Brake *Assist System has been* shown to cut the braking distance of a car travel*ling on a dry road* at 62mph from 239ft to just 131ft. It is being intro*duced at no extra cost* on Mercedes cars.
- Engineers found that, even in an emergency, drivers do not exert maximum braking pressure and *that in an accident* 99 per cent are either too light on the brakes or *only apply full braking* pressure too late.
- Brake Assist's electronic sensors constantly monitor the speed at which the brake pedal is applied. The system's computer brain learns the driver's normal brake pedal reactions.
- When the pedal is applied much faster than usual, the system registers this as an emergency and overrides the driver's braking foot via a pedal booster to exert 100 per cent brake pressure in a fraction of a second.

Smashing head-on into a 16-ton truck must rate pretty high up every car driver's list of worst motoring nightmares, a seemingly sure route to automotive oblivion. Across Europe every year almost 2,000 people die in such one-sided accidents, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

While the idea of such a smash might appeal to fans of the controversial J.G. Ballard novel and movie *Crash*, to those of us with less blunted sensibilities, watching the real thing "in the metal" comes as a *shocking blow to all the* senses. Even when, the accident is a life-size laboratory experiment, the doomed family of three a trio of computer-linked crash dummies, and the "road" the Renault heavy commercial vehicle testing centre near Paris, the impact is no less phenomenal.

Watched by cameras capable of taking 1,000 pictures a second, a 1.2-ton Renault Megane family saloon with "mummy" and "daddy" dummies each worth £40,000 on *board, plus "baby" dummy in* the rear child seat, was fired at 40mph head on into a partially-loaded rigid-bodied Renault Premium truck weighing a total of 16 tons.

The noise is shattering, a massive bang and that sickening screech of metal being instantaneously reshaped that turns the stomach to water. While the truck was eased backwards two or three feet on impact, its left-hand headlamp destroyed and bumper twisted, the whole rear end of the *Megane flew up into the air*. Then the entire car leapt up sideways and back, the front completely destroyed.

Only a few years ago such a collision would have meant certain death for everybody in the saloon. Yet computer readings of the stresses and strains suffered by the car's three occupants showed that not only would they have lived, but would have survived relatively unscathed.

Their survival was due to a combination of Megane's pro*grammed restraint system, in*cluding airbags and seat pretensioners, as well as the car's *ability to collapse and deform* on impact, so progressively absorbing violent crash energy, *instead of passing it on* directly to the car occupants, with fatal results.

However, crucial to their survival is a technical breakthrough by Renault that the safety-conscious French firm would like to be mandatory on all heavy commercial vehicles sold across Europe and which, the company says, could save close to 600 lives a year.

The problem with head-on collisions between trucks and cars is three-fold. First, the truck can be up to 50 times heavier than a saloon and on impact that massive energy must be absorbed and dissipated. Not much can be done about that, other than making 16-ton family saloons to help them punch their weight.

But the two other key elements in such collisions can be addressed, says Renault. By *making the front of trucks* deformable, rather than a metal wall on wheels, so that it *absorbs energy, and by de*signing trucks to prevent the lethal habit of cars "under*running" and wedging them*selves beneath the front bumper of the truck, lives can be saved and lorries made more "smash friendly".

The Renault answer is the clumsily titled Front Underrun Prevention System, a beam made of high-yield strength steel which, bolted immediately under the truck's front bumper, deforms on impact and also stops the car under-running. Instead, it can bounce away.

Across Europe, some 4,200 people a year die in crashes between cars and heavy trucks, 1,900 of them in head-on collisions. A third of those could be prevented if the under-run prevention technology were to be generally adopted says Renault.

The redesign of the front of the truck to absorb up to 20 per *cent of the crash energy, and to* prevent cars diving under the front of it, has measurable *effects says Vehicles and* Trucks director Philippe Brossette.

"The conclusions of this test show that the occupants of the Megane, projected at 65kph against a Premium equipped with the Front Underrun Prevention System, have a survival probability in the order of 100 per cent."

However, safety does not come without a price tag. At present the under-run prevention system is offered as an option costing up to £500, but Renault says such devices, like seatblets, should be enforced by legislation with the cost borne by all manufacturers equally, rather than asking consumers to pay for greater safety.

The catchword for Renault is "co-habitation", the ability of cars, vans and heavy trucks to be designed so that, when *inevitably they do crash, inju*ries are kept to a minimum. Engineering director Philippe *Ventre says: "We believe these* safety improvements should be imposed by legislation, but *that takes time, like the airbag,* which is favoured but has not been enforced by law.

*"Safety is not about market*ing scoops. All manufacturers should be committed to the same levels of safety in their vehicles."

For Brossette the ideal would be for manufacturers to get together to share ideas and technology, as Renault's car and truck divisions have done, and to build their vehicles with the effects of car-truck collisions in mind.

Brossette says: "There are a lot of people who see large vehicles as 'killer trucks'. They think they *should* be taken off the road, and see only that trucks have a bad image. The idea is to show that we can build a truck that is safer."

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As the Megane bounced clear, computer analysis shows that its occupants would have escaped relatively unhurt

Elinor Hardman on an ABS survey

A locking system we have to learn

Millions of motorists could learn to reduce the risk of being involved in a fatal accident. A four-year study into anti-locking brake systems and driver training suggests that ABS could live up to advertising hype by halving road fatalities — but first we need more driving lessons.

At the Aariste Laboratory in France, study leader Alain Priez and his five-strong team watched 67 subjects drive Renault 25 cars around a private road test circuit, claiming to examine driving skills. However each trial came to an *unexpected end* when a dummy car was pushed out 50 yards in front of the test *vehicle as if it was travelling* at an average of 64mph. The *Highway Code* stopping distance at this speed is 87 yards.

"While it would have been possible to avoid impact by braking and turning simultaneously, we were presenting a forced collision for most drivers," said Priez.

The team analysed the severity of collisions by examining impact speed and collision point on the stationary vehicle. "If a car impacts faster than 40mph on to the side of another car's passenger compartment, anyone seated at that point in the compartment will die," said Priez.

The drivers were split into four groups balanced for age, sex and driving experience. The groups used different braking systems and received different training.

Priez judged that 87 *per cent* of experimental crashes by drivers with standard brakes would have been fatal to passengers in the dummy car. ABS saved many of these "deaths", with fatality figures of 67 per cent for drivers unaware they were using ABS and 62 per cent for those knowingly using the system. Only 36 per cent of collisions by drivers who had been given a morning's tuition on using ABS were categorised as fatal.

None of the drivers using standard brakes was able completely to avoid the collision, but 11 per cent of those equipped with ABS walked away without a bump. Priez sees the 30 per cent projected fatality difference between drivers trained and untrained in ABS as evidence for the importance of instruction.

During the morning's ABS training ses*sion, not one of the* drivers braked effectively to start with. All needed practice and *guidance*.

"Drivers are reluctant to push their feet fully down on the brake and keep them there, especially if they know they have to turn. They are often scared of losing control and release the pedal too quickly. Unless ABS is applied forcefully and constantly it will not work to its full effect."

The study comes amid claims that ABS brakes and other car safety devices cause more accidents than they save, by giving drivers false assurance as to their abilities to survive dangerous situations.

Data from the US Transport Department suggests that while ABS may have reduced pedestrian deaths by over one quarter, fatal car accidents have increased as drivers are losing control in emergencies and fail to stay on the road.

This may be partially explained by a study in Munich several years ago. A taxi fleet in which half the cars had newly-fitted ABS brakes and half had standard brakes was put under secret observation for three years. Researchers *anticipated* a fall in accident rates of ABS fitted cars. To their surprise, accident rates *for the two groups were stable* and identical. Only driver behaviour changed, with ABS drivers going *faster*, making sharper turns and having more near misses. Drivers who feel safer go faster and take more risks. They are secure in the false knowledge that they are unlikely to come to harm.

Priez admits: "We can't say ABS is really improving safety. It is reducing pedestrian accidents in towns, but it seems that people are taking too many risks and failing to use the system properly. Instruction is needed to show people they are not indestructible — or above bad driving."